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JULY 6, 2006

Amos C. Brown: media innovator, broadcast personality, community activist, columnist, all rolled into one dynamo



Amos C. Brown

By Jeannine Lee Lake

How does one start out in radio and wind up a community activist?

How does a microphone inside a studio become a weapon to fight racism, sexism, ageism and other forms of discrimination?

If you want to know the answers to these questions, take a few minutes and sit down with Amos C. Brown III, a man who has been a leading figure in Indianapolis media, a man who became more than an "on-air personality," and a man who simply

uses his public pedestal to promote equality, justice and fair treatment for all.

In Muncie recently to participate in the Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies annual conference, Brown came to a city that has been dealt its fair share of racial issues, whether it be the controversial renaming of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard or the tumult behind the South Madison Community Center. Brown, who spoke to a crowd of

continued on page 5

Ex-Munsonian starts medical internship at Hershey Center, Pa.



Teresa M. Jones displays her degree from Rochester Institute of Technology

Gun violence takes staggering toll on U.S. kids, teens

This is the first of a four-part series on the ravages of gun violence in the United States, as compiled by the Washington, D.C.-based Children's Defense Fund. The rest will run July 20, Aug. 3 and 17.

The latest data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that 2,827 children and teens died from gunfire in the United States in 2003—one child or teen about every 3 hours,

nearly 8 every day: that's 54 children and teens every week.

The Children's Defense Fund 2006 report showed that:

- *1,822 were homicide victims;
- *810 committed suicide; *195 died in accidental or undetermined circumstances; *2,502 were boys, while 325 were girls;
- *1,554 were white; *1,172 were black; *553 were Latino; *51 were Asian or Pacific Islander; *50 were American Indian or Alaska Native; *378 were under

continued on page 10

SEE Jones complete story on page 3

EDITORIAL

Congress should stop pussyfooting reauthorize Voting Rights

The expected Voting Rights Act reauthorization has been stalled--after some Republicans in the GOP-dominated U.S. House of Representatives sabotaged it. They demanded that certain sections of the act should be watered down or removed altogether because some southern states no longer deserve to continue under federal scrutiny and supervision.

What these Congress members seem to forget is that Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and other southern states were placed under federal monitoring because they had grievously, egregiously, criminally and systemati-

cally denied African Americans the right to vote or had placed numerous obstacles in the way to prevent African Americans from voting.

Voting rights should not be a partisan issue. It's a moral issue. It's a rights issue. It's a political issue. It's a fundamental issue. It smacks of hypocrisy to talk about freedom in Iraq, to place American soldiers in harm's way in trying to promote freedom and democracy in Iraq and then turn around and refuse to guarantee the same freedoms to non-white Americans. Freedom should begin at home, before it can be exported to other coun-

tries.

The right to vote, to choose those who will hold elective office and preside over the making of decisions that affect us all, is the cornerstone of democracy. It gives citizens the right to elect or fire their representatives. It makes elected officials accountable to their electorates. It means whoever you are, rich or poor, white or black, powerful or powerless, educated or uneducated, your vote will count equally.

The vote of the poorest person in the country is equal to that of the president of the United States or the CEO of a Fortune 500 company.

But we cannot guarantee that unless Congress has the guts to take this bull by the horns and do the only honorable thing: reauthorize the Voting Rights Act. The southern states were not arbitrarily or capriciously chosen for federal scrutiny. They earned that right because they were capricious in how they discriminated against African Americans. They systematically and deliberately put in place measures designed to discourage, prevent or stop African Americans from registering to vote or from voting. They used the poll tax, literacy tests and other illegal shenanigans, which did not apply to white voters and potential voters, in a virtual criminal conspiracy to prevent adult blacks from voting.

It became necessary for the federal government, through Congress and the U.S. Justice Department, to step in and ensure that the voting rights of African Americans and other disenfranchised Americans were protected. Now an attempt is underway to undercut these provisions.

Congress needs to have the guts to ensure that the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act occurs this year. President George W. Bush needs to speak up and urge Congress to do the right thing. Republican and Democratic leaders need to stand up and be counted. The Congressional Black Caucus, the Civil Rights Movement and all fair-minded Americans need to push Congress to

act on this crucial issue this year, instead of putting the matter off until next year.

The southern states covered by the Voting Rights Act were not arbitrarily chosen. They placed themselves on the list because they had systematically and deliberately engaged in activities designed to prevent blacks from voting or to dilute their voting strength. These were not mistakes. They were deliberate public policy choices. There is evidence, from Texas, Georgia and some of the other southern states that efforts to interfere with the voting rights of African Americans and other minorities are continuing. To fail to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act is tantamount to the United States denying its own citizens the same rights--freedom and the right to vote--that it purports to be promoting overseas.

That would be first class hypocrisy. It would inhumanely. It would disrespect the flag and the U.S. Constitution. It would put nonwhite U.S. soldiers in the anomalous position of fighting to protect, overseas, freedoms and rights that their own people are being denied in some of the southern states. That's an untenable situation. That divides, rather than uniting, the country. We hope the the United States, the president and the Congress will unite in doing the only right thing: reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act now, before it expires next year.

LETTER POLICY

The Muncie Times accepts and publishes "Letters to the Editor" under the following conditions:

- The letter must indicate the writer's name, address and phone number where the writer can be reached during the day. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

- If the writer wishes the letter to be published under a pseudonym, that wish will be honored.

However, the writer's full particulars must be included in the letter along with the suggested pseudonym.

- Letters must be brief, preferably no more than 300 words long and should, if possible, be typed and double-spaced. Hand-written letters will also be accepted.

- The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for brevity, accuracy, taste, grammar and libel.

- All correspondence should be addressed to: The Editor, The Muncie Times, 1304 N. Broadway, Muncie, IN 47303.

- Unsolicited manuscripts will only be returned if the writer includes a self-addressed, stamped envelope with correct package.

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Jones from page 1

By Judy Mays

Muncie native Teresa M. Jones, 26, will be starting her internship in internal medicine and pediatrics at the Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pa. The medical center is affiliated with Penn State University.

Jones, who is moving from Williamson, N.Y., to Pennsylvania is a May 2006 graduate of State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine.

In a recent phone conversation, Jones said of her formative years in Muncie: "I attended Huffer Memorial

Children's Center, Longfellow, Claypool and Washington Carver (elementary) schools."

Jones graduated from Williamson High School, in upstate New York, in 1998. She received a bachelor's degree in biology from Rodchester Institute of Technology in 2002.

"I moved to New York at age 8 and at that time I knew that I wanted to be a doctor. I don't recall anything that really prompted me to that decision, other than I consider it to be a gift that I had everything inside of me to make this happen," Jones said.

Jones also said that her choice to be a medical doctor is the best use of her gifts for God.

"I know how I am to serve, what I'm meant to do. I understand people, I've always been good in science and these gifts have kept me as I was growing up. I'm very grateful. For me, it's not just a career but a calling," she said.

Jones said she keeps contact with family and friends in Muncie and tries to visit every couple of years.

She is the daughter of Rodney Jones and granddaughter of Mildred Jones, both of Muncie.

Mrs. Jones said of her granddaughter, "Her dad and I are so very proud of Teresa. It's been such a struggle but her father was determined to do all he could to support her

through school. Teresa is cated to becoming a loyal young Christian medical doctor." woman who was dedi-

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State Unemployment Figures Released

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went up one-tenth of a percentage point in May to 5.0 percent, according to the monthly report released today by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Nationally, the unemployment rate went down one-tenth of a percent point in May.

The state's 5.0 percent

seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2006 is down from 5.2 percent one year ago.

The number of employed Hoosiers on a seasonally adjusted basis in May 2006 was 3,100,500 compared with 3,030,300 in May 2005 and 3,015,800 in January 2005.

"Based on these preliminary figures, there appears to be little change in our overall employment

outlook from April to May," said Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "The slight increases in our unemployment rate, number of Hoosiers employed and labor force, are all statistically insignificant.

As Governor Daniels has said before, we still have much work ahead of us to continue to grow our econo-

my and provide good paying jobs to all Hoosiers."

Seasonally Adjusted:

Indiana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 5.0 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from April, and March. The rate for the U.S. for May 2006 was 4.6 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from one month earlier.

For the month of May, Indiana's Midwest neighboring states reported the following unemployment rates: Kentucky, 5.6 percent; Illinois, 4.6 percent; Ohio, 5.3 percent; Michigan, 6.0 percent.

For the month of May the state's estimated seasonally adjusted labor force total was 3,263,900. The number of Hoosier workers employed during May was 3,100,500 and the number of unemployed Hoosiers during May was 163,400.

Non-Seasonally Adjusted:

Using the same data and reporting non-seasonally adjusted employment trends, Indiana's May non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, which is down three-tenths of a percentage point from one year ago, when it was 5.1 percent.

The U.S. non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4 percent for the month of May, down one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month and down five-tenths of a percentage point from a year ago. Of Indiana's neighboring states reporting non-sea-

sonally adjusted unemployment rates, Kentucky's rate was 5.5 percent and Illinois' rate was 4.4 percent. Ohio reported an unemployment rate of 4.9 percent, while Michigan's rate was reported to be 5.8 percent.

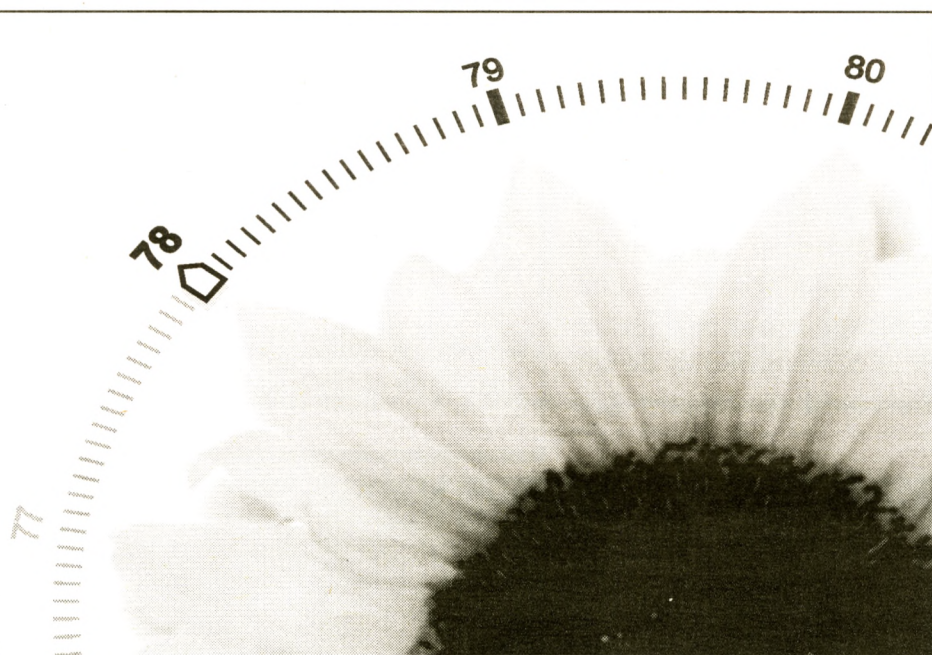
The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve worker skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor-market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

Technical Notes

-In calculating unemployment rates, two different types of numbers are provided. The first, known as the non-seasonally adjusted rate, estimates employment and unemployment without taking into account the effects of seasonal trends. In calculating the seasonally adjusted rate, or employment that follows more or less a regular pattern each year, holiday, summer and other types of seasonal employment is factored out of the estimate. These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other non-seasonal movements.

-Compiled in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the State's unemployment rate

continued on page 6



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about 100 people at the Hotel Roberts, covered a variety of topics, including the three-strikes law, recidivism and the importance of minority families.

Brown, director of Strategic Research for Radio One/Indiana, has probably been one of Indiana's most recognizable radio talents, having been with WTLC-AM/FM as on-air personality and also as station manager. However, his love for minority issues and promotion of minority interests is why he has endured as a longtime icon in the black community and beyond.

Talking specifically to the need for minority men to be given a second chance after prison convictions, Brown spoke of the realities of having scores of unemployable men who commit crimes as teenagers and young men, then are branded with a "scarlet letter" for the rest of their lives.

He spoke of men who committed crimes 20 and 30 years ago, have stayed out of trouble since then but who are not able to secure and/or keep good jobs because of their criminal records. He spoke of one particular individual who spoke of repeatedly being rejected by would-be employers, saying that although "he had kept clean for 15 years," he "couldn't get a job because of something he had done 15 years ago."

Brown said, "Here we have a changed man, a man who wants to work

and take care of his family, but yet he is unable to even get his foot through the door to prove himself.

"We've got to address these issues and begin to look at ways to help in these situations."

Noting that racism does still exist, despite the many goals that have been achieved, Brown commended the consortium for continuing to confront social injustice and for realizing that it takes everyone -- not just minorities -- to realize when change needs to be made.

Bio on Amos C. Brown: Source: www.thelegislativeconference.com/Bios/

For three decades, Amos C. Brown III has been a unique figure in Indianapolis media; carrying multiple responsibilities in media: as an executive; as on-air talent on radio and television, and as a newspaper columnist.

Brown is Director of Strategic Research for Radio One/Indiana, the minority-owned, publicly traded company, which owns Radio Stations WTLC-AM/FM, WHHH(FM), WYJZ(FM) and WDNI-TV. He serves as a member of the company's management team.

Besides his management duties, Amos Brown has been one of the city's most visible radio and television personalities for 30 years. For a large part of those years, Brown served in a variety of management and on air capacities at WTLC Radio, including serving 13 years as

Station Manager.

Brown has been involved in producing and hosting several innovative radio and television programs in Indianapolis.

In February 2004, Brown began hosting a new 2-hour afternoon talk show on WTLC-AM, "Afternoons with Amos." The program returns Brown to his radio roots as 12 years earlier, he had created Indianapolis' first black-oriented radio talk show, "The Noon Show," on WTLC-AM, a program he hosted for 2 years.

In "Afternoons with Amos" first year, the program has become the most listened to radio talk show for African Americans and the second largest audience of any

local Indianapolis radio talk show.

Since October 1997, this Northwestern University graduate has been host/managing editor of "The Amos Brown Show," Indianapolis' only daytime television talk show. For 2 years prior to that, Brown created and was host/managing editor for WAV-TV's Six Thirty PM, Indianapolis's first nightly TV magazine in a decade.

Brown is also the on air public service and community voice on Radio One's four Indianapolis radio and one Indianapolis television stations.

This media innovator moved from the airwaves to print in August 1994, when he began writing a

weekly column for the Indianapolis Recorder. Now in his 10th year as columnist at large for the 109-year-old African American-owned weekly newspaper, Brown's column, "Just Tellin' It", comments on a wide range of topics affecting the African American community, from politics, to media, to community empowerment.

Amos Brown has received numerous honors, including the Sagamore of the Wabash, three CASPER Awards from the United Way/Community Service Council, the NAB's prestigious Crystal Award for Community Service, and an Award of Excellence from the U.S. Census Bureau.

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is derived from a national survey of about 60,000 households. Of that number approximately 1,300 Indiana households are polled each month. Given the small size of the Indiana sample, they are often considered preliminary estimates. For most accurate analysis, please use revised data sets and not preliminary estimates.

-The Household survey that calculates the unemployment rate is conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and is conducted during the week of the 12th of the month.

-Labor force is calculated as the number of people 16 years of age and older who were able and available to work.

To the Media: The federal government collects two types of information about changes in the U.S.

labor force. Jobs statistics measure the number of positions (jobs) in U.S. businesses created or lost over a specified period of time, and come from government surveys of payroll records. For this reason, these statistics do not capture information about changes in the number of self-employed persons, business owners, and farm workers. Employment statistics come from surveys of U.S. households,

and distinguish whether individuals in those households are working (employed) or not working (unemployed). These statistics include the self-employed, business owners, and farm workers. (Note: Individuals are counted as being employed only once, even if they hold more than one job.) The unemployment rate is calculated from these statistics.

INDIANA VS. U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

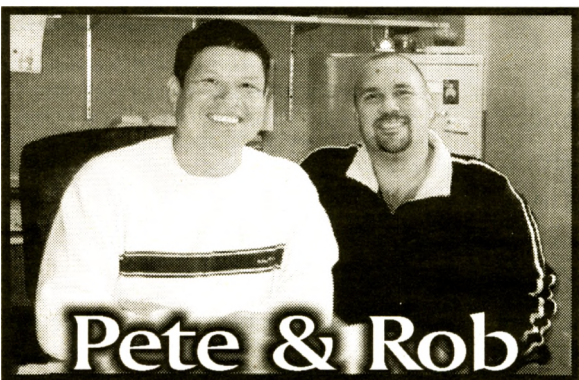
Seasonally Adjusted

Indiana
May, 2006
April, 2006
March, 2006
May, 2005
Labor Force
3,263,900
3,252,000
3,261,100
3,196,700
Employed

3,100,500	3,242,400
3,092,500	3,211,700
3,099,800	
3,030,300	Employed
Unemployed	3,117,900
163,400	3,086,200
159,500	3,049,400
161,300	
166,400	Unemployed
Rate	158,800
5.0	156,200
4.9	162,300
4.9	
5.2	Rate
	4.8
U.S.	4.8
Rate	5.1
4.6	
4.7	U.S.
4.7	Rate
5.1	4.4
Non-Seasonally	4.5
Adjusted Indiana	4.9
May, 2006	
April, 2006	
May, 2005	
Labor Force	
3,276,700	

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You may be eligible depending on your income and the value of things you own.

Do you have Medicare Part A Hospital Insurance? (Look at your Medicare card.)

Is your monthly

income at or below \$1,068 (single person) or \$1,426 (married couple)?

Are your financial assets, such as bank accounts, below \$4,000 (single person) or \$6,000 (married couple)?

If you answered YES to all three questions, the State may help pay for your Medicare costs. This help, provided through Indiana's Medicaid program, is called the "Medicare Savings Program".

There are three levels

of help available based on your income and assets.

QMB - Qualified Medicare Beneficiary QMB pays for Medicare premiums, copayments and deductibles. The average Medicare beneficiary pays over \$1,000 out of pocket each year for these expenses.

SLMB or Q11 - Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary SLMB or Q11 pays your Medicare Part B premium. This saves you over \$799 a year.

Monthly Limits

Individuals up to \$796
Couples up to \$1,061
SLMB or Q11 not more than \$1,068 or \$1,426

If you have Medicare Part B, your premium of \$78.20 is taken out of your Social Security check each month. Add this amount to your Social Security check to see if your current income is within these limits.

If you have employment income, over half of it, before taxes, doesn't count.

Asset Limits
Individuals \$4,000
Couples \$6,000

Assets are things you own, such as checking and savings accounts, certificates of deposit, cash value of life insurance, stocks and bonds. Some things you own don't count toward your asset limit, such as your home and furnishings, your car, prepaid funeral trusts and income-producing real estate.

These limits are guidelines.

The only way to know for sure if you are eligible is to apply.

Medicaid Application Information

You may visit or call

your Local Office of Family and Children to apply for Medicare Buy-In. You will need to complete an application form and participate in an interview. The interview can take place in person or over the telephone. Within 45 days, you will receive a notice in the mail that tells you whether your application was approved.

For more information about enrollment centers or Medicaid call:

Your Area Agency on Aging (AAA) at 1-800-986-3505

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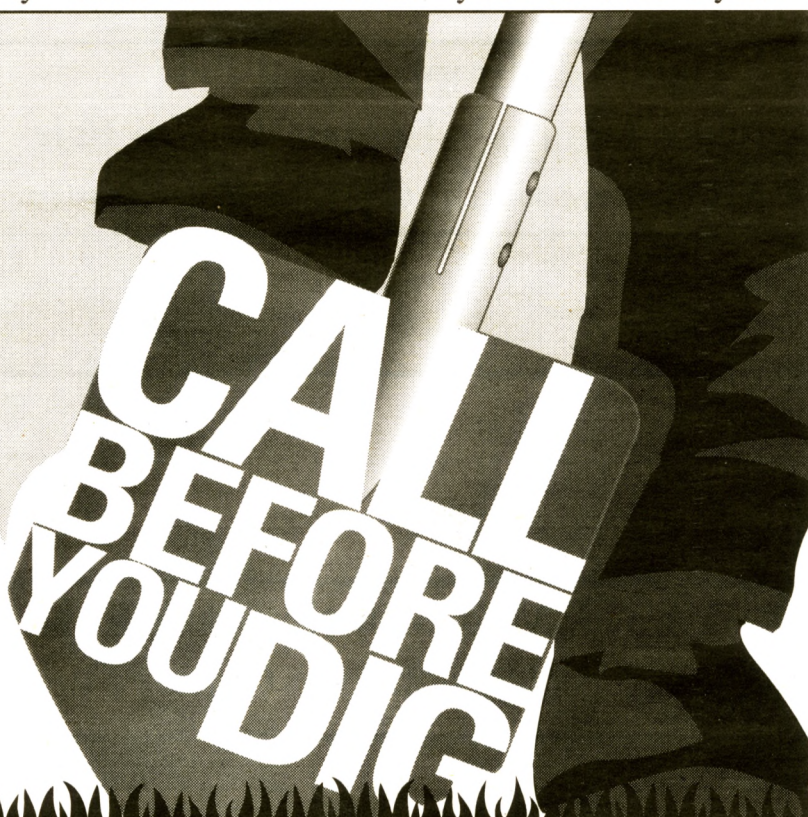
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NAACP News

FIFA to kick racism out of soccer's World Cup games

The NAACP is urging international soccer authorities to eliminate threats and race-based assaults during the World Cup games which started Friday in 12 German cities. The NAACP said increasingly, alarming racist incidents continue to occur during international soccer matches, including monkey-like chanting, derisive singing and banners displaying neo-fascist beliefs have been observed this season. On March 25 Nigerian forward Adebawale Ogungbure was spit upon and jeered with racist remarks following a match in the German city of Halle. "The world's largest civil rights organization will not sit idly by as athletes of color are assailed on or off the playing field," said NAACP President and CEO Bruce S. Gordon. "The abuse being endured during these international matches is unacceptable. We call on the world and those who regulate and spon-

sor these events to denounce such public displays of bigotry and move swiftly to bring them to an end. These actions are throwbacks to a disturbing history that should be just that, history. We are determined they will not be repeated again.

"Any athlete or sports official who participates in racist actions should be disciplined. Any fan acting similarly should be promptly dealt with by law enforcement authorities.

'Deplorable acts of hooliganism in soccer have gone unchecked for years by FIFA [the Federation Internationale de Football Association, which is the soccer's world governing body]. These incidents will no longer go unnoticed by this organization and its partners."

Gordon has sent a letter to the CEOs of several major American-based sponsors of the international event and plans to speak with them to articulate the

NAACP's concerns.

The NAACP president urges the companies to denounce racist activity and leverage their advertising dollars should event organizers fail to act on the matter. Anything short of that, he asserts, condones the behavior and mars their brand.

In the letter Gordon also calls on FIFA to discipline players, fans and team management as necessary and increase security for players.



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age 15; *119 were under age 10; *56 were under age 5.

In addition to this horrific child death toll, four to five times as many children and teens suffered non-fatal bullet wounds.

The number of children and teens killed by gun violence in 2003, alone, exceeds the number of American fighting men and women killed in hostile action in Iraq from 2003 to April 2006.

In 2003, 56 preschoolers were killed by firearms. In the same year, 52 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty. The number of children and teens in America killed by guns in 2003 would fill 113 public school classrooms of 25 students each.

More 10- to 19-year-olds die from gunshot wounds than from any other cause, except motor vehicle accidents. Almost 90 percent of the children and teens killed by firearms in 2003 were boys. Black children and teens are more likely to be victims of firearm homicide, while white children and teens are more likely to commit suicide.

The firearm death rate for African American males ages 15 to 19 is more than four times that of white males the same age. A black male has a 1 in 72 chance of being killed by a firearm before his 30th birthday. A white male

continued from page 1
has a 1 in 344 chance of being killed by a firearm before his 30th birthday.

In 2003, there were more than nine times as many suicides by guns among white children and teens, as among black children and teens. Males ages 15 to 19 are more than eight times as likely as females that age to commit suicide with a firearm.

Although there has been a decline in child gun deaths since the peak year of 1994, children and teens are still twice as likely as adults to be victims of violent crime and are more likely to be killed by adults than by other children. The rate of firearm deaths among children under age 15 is far higher in the United States than in 25 other industrialized countries combined.

Since 1979, gun violence has snuffed out the lives of 98,588 children and teens in America. Sixty percent of them were white; 37 percent were black. The number of black children and teens killed by gunfire since 1979 is more than 10 times the number of black citizens of all ages lynched in American history. The number of children and teens killed by guns since 1979 would fill 3,943 public school classrooms of 25 students each.

DR. WORKONE:

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Dear Dr. WorkOne,

I had been with a company for 15 years and just recently got laid off.

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I feel that this is a disadvantage to me and I have worked all my life.

Can you help me determine what I need to do in order to be successful in the work force now that I have no job or my high school diploma?

Adam

Dear Adam,

I can imagine how that must feel to have close friends telling you your job opportunities are really going to be cut back due to not having your high school diploma. The truth is your friends are not far off when telling you this. I am sure they are only looking out for you, as only good friends would do.

As an advocate of

education, the first thing that you are going to have to do is look into preparing for and obtaining your General Education Diploma (GED). Receiving your GED is equivalent to having your high school diploma. Most employers today require a high school diploma or GED to apply and possibly be selected for a job. Adult Education, GED preparation classes would be a good beginning point for you. The program provides free classes for those who need any of the following services: basic math, language arts, or reading review; preparation for the GED examination, academic skills brush up for entering post-secondary programs; preparation for employment, or job advancement. Classes are generally held in local communities at high schools, career centers and local WorkOne facilities. Students in GED classes generally are between the ages 16 and 80 with each individual working on what they individually need and at their speed. GED tests today have

been revised to reflect "real world" skills. Basic skills, such as report writing and solving mathematical equations that are essential for today's workplace.

Getting your GED will put you on the right track to being able to be eligible for more jobs. It will give you an advantage that you did not have before when previously looking for jobs and it may even help you earn a higher wage. Do not wait any longer to

begin preparing for the GED. Earning your GED will help in making your career a successful one.

Contact your local WorkOne office in your community to learn more about the service offered in your community. Staff is in these offices to assist you in making tomorrow a better place for you and your family.

Best wishes,
Dr. WorkOne

Dr. WorkOne is a service of the East Central Indiana Workforce Investment Board. The doctor regrets that he is unable to answer every letter, but he will publish questions that have the widest appeal in his column whenever possible.

Readers may write him at P.O. Box 1081, Muncie, Indiana 47308-1081.

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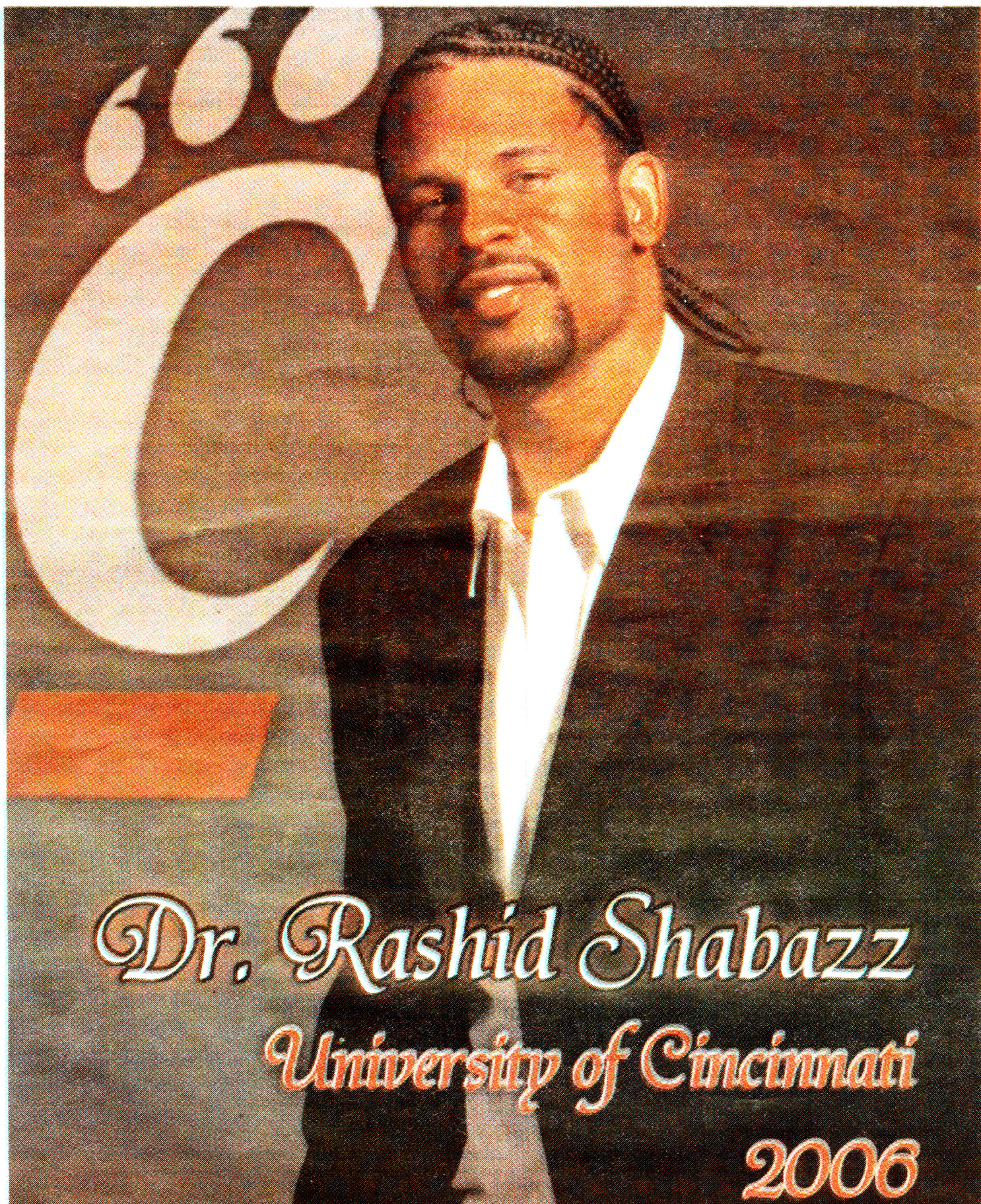
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Declining number of minority network TV shows has NAACP worried

Diversity on broadcast network television has been an issue for years.

In 1999 the networks joined the NAACP and other minority groups in an initiative that promised to diversify the entertainment industry workforce not only in front of the camera, but also behind the scenes.

The goal was to create programming that better reflects the American viewing audience. While there has been some progress, everyone recognizes that there is still much to be done.

One very disconcerting fact is that, with the cancellation of the Bernie Mac Show, for the first time in recent history, there is not a comedy with an African American lead character left on the big

four networks. When it comes to returning sitcoms and the announced new comedies, African Americans are missing in action.

While the genre is not as popular as it once was, there is not a shortage of sitcoms on the schedule: ABC: Big Day, Help Me Help You, Betty the Ugly, Notes from the Underbelly, According to Jim, What About Brian, George Lopez. CBS: The Class, Two and Half Men, How I Met Your Mother, New Adventures of Old Christine. NBC: 20 Good Years, 30 Rock, My Name is Earl, The Office. FOX: The Loop, The War at Home, Till Death.

Out of the nearly 20 sitcoms on network television this fall, it is unconscionable that there is not

an African American lead among them.

When you take into account the recent merger of UPN and the WB the television landscape becomes even more bleak for the hundreds of African Americans and minorities who have made their careers working on television comedies. While it is unfair to put the burden of diversity on television on the new CW; at least there you can find a Sunday night block of African American comedies. UPN had been the only network to actively program for an African American audience. The detrimental impact of the CW's formation is indisputable. Five of the eight African-American comedies UPN aired (One On One, Half & Half, Eve,

Cuts, and Love Inc.), did not make the CW fall line up.

Many of the UPN shows had African American show runners and predominantly black casts. They also employed many minority writers, directors, technicians and crafts people. The harsh reality is that with each canceled show upwards of 200 people may lose their jobs. Now that those shows are canceled, the NAACP is concerned not only about where people will find work, but how long it will take to recover lost ground. If these writers, actors, directors and crafts persons were considered equally for other industry jobs and opportunities, then we would have no issue. But, regrettably, this is not the way it works

in Hollywood.

In 1999 when the NAACP diversity initiative was first started in Hollywood there were seven African American show runners. In 2005 there were 13 African American show runners. It is anticipated that in 2006 there will be eight. This is due in large part because of the loss of UPN shows.

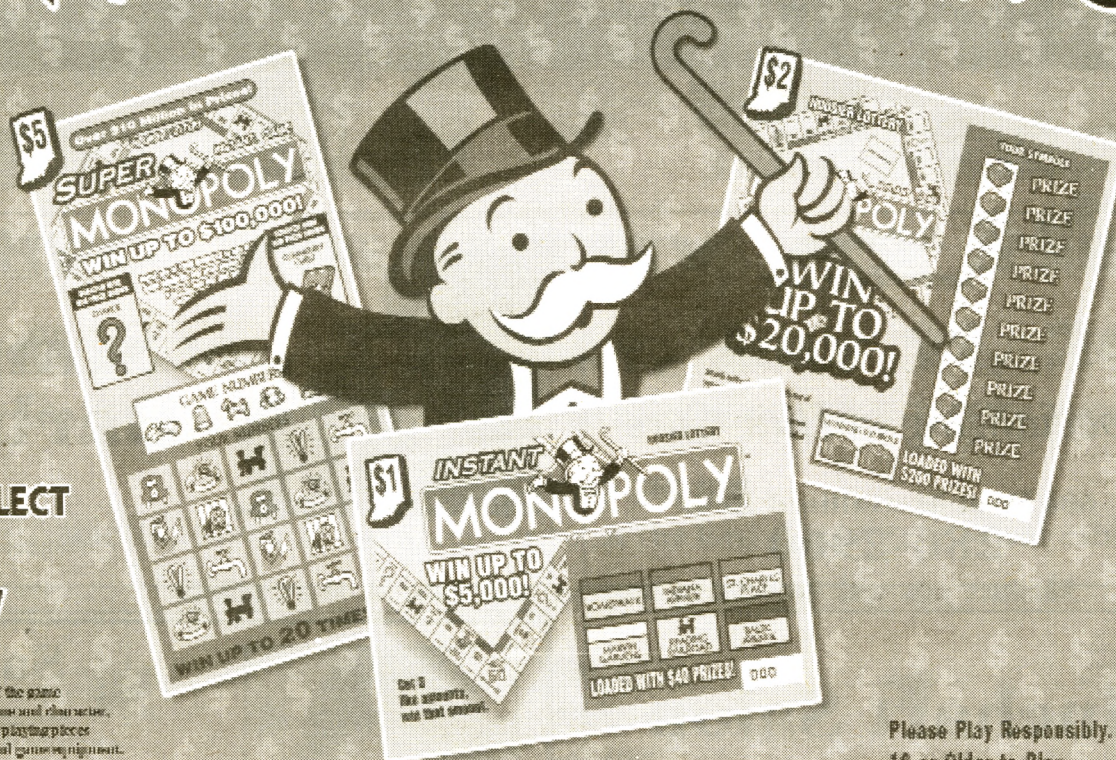
When we question employment practices in Hollywood, we are continually told that the networks have little or no control over who is hired on the staff of a show; that those decisions are made by the show runner.

They hire who they trust to get the job done. Everyone is acutely aware of this inherent discrimi-

continued on page 22

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Indiana Beach offers affordable entertainment for vacationing Hoosiers

Gas prices are on the rise and are expected to continue to climb during the summer travel season. This added cost could influence families' summer vacation plans, with many families looking for vacation values and destinations that are closer to home.

Indiana Beach Amusement and Camp Resort provides family fun at a value unmatched by other Midwest amusement parks and its location in Monticello, Ind., is a short drive for area families. Indiana Beach is 95 miles north of Indianapolis or 110 miles south of Chicago.

Lake Shafer, Indiana Beach is an oasis in the heart of Indiana farmland. Its atmosphere is reminiscent of an old-fashioned boardwalk and amusement park. However, Indiana Beach's rides are modern and thrilling. Families will find five roller coasters, a water park with six water slides, over 30 rides and attractions, a sand beach, a water thrill and stunt show, dining, shopping, entertainment and more.

Two water fun attractions are new additions for 2006. Indiana Beach is introducing Splash Battle, an interactive family water ride, and Splash Bash, a zero-depth water

play area within the water park. The breadth of family fun that Indiana Beach provides as Indiana's largest amusement resort is a summertime vacation value. At Indiana Beach, the park entrance fee is \$2.50 per person. This allows non-riding guests to enter the park affordably. In addition, all guests staying at Indiana Beach vacation accommodations receive free gate admission to the Boardwalk Funway.

Indiana Beach offers a variety of affordable overnight guests lodging options including two camp resorts, an inn, a motel, and the new Hoosier Pointe Cottages.

With admission to the Boardwalk Funway, guests can shop, relax, and enjoy the Water Thrill & Stunt Spectacular all day long. Guests who want to enjoy some or all of Indiana Beach's attractions can choose to pay for only what they want to ride.

Indiana Beach offers entertainment options. Fine dining is available at The Skyroom Restaurant, live music fills the air at the fun Roof Garden Lounge, and guests of all ages will enjoy a paddleboat tour of Lake Shafer aboard the mighty Shafer Queen. On Friday evenings, a live DJ spins music on the Boardwalk

Funway and on Saturday nights, the Indiana Beach Ballroom hosts a Teen Dance Club. In addition, Indiana Beach is located on over 3,000 acres of water fun.

Guests can enjoy fishing, boating, water skiing, jet skiing, and much more on the exciting shores of Lake Shafer and Lake Freeman. There are two 18-hole golf courses near the vacation paradise.

Visitors can receive additional information about Indiana Beach at **H Y P E R L I N K** "<http://www.IndianaBeach.com>" or by calling 574-583-4141.

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For information on various eye conditions, as well as information on the latest advancements in surgical techniques, tune in Dr. Makris' weekly television show, "You and Your Eyes", on Muncie Public Access Channel 42, Sundays at 6:00 PM and Wednesdays at 4:00 PM.

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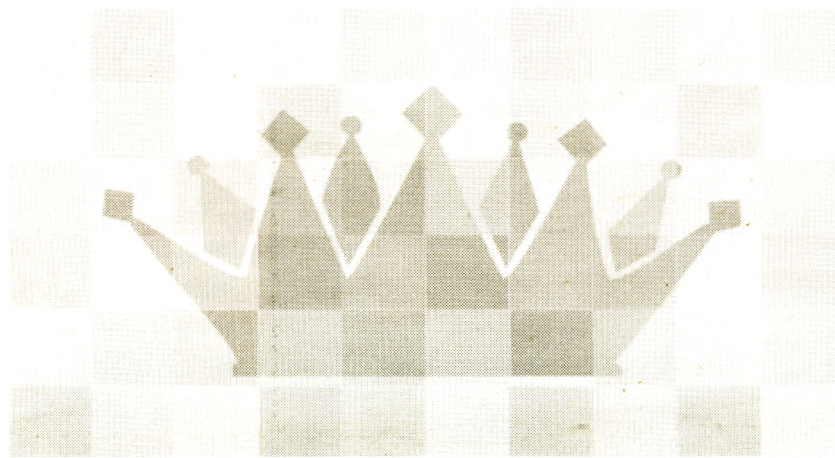
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Gospel Legend Andrae Crouch Celebrates 40 Years

2006 marks the 40th anniversary of the musical ministry of Andrae Crouch, a major milestone in a career that has redefined the impact of gospel music for all time. Over the course of those four history making decades, Andrae has done more than any other artist in living memory to bring the power, majesty and pure elation of great gospel hungry hearts around the world.

Supremely talented, intensely dedicated and enormously influential, he has faithfully offered the timeless message of God's love to nations and generations with a freshness, originality and authenticity that have earned him a unique and enduring place in the annals of inspirational music.

His accomplishments are immeasurable enhanced with the release of his long waited new Verity Records debut album, *Mighty Wind*. Two years in the making and featuring 14 stunning selections, including both new songs and inspired renditions of beloved classics, *Mighty Wind* is, simple put, an exuberant celebration of a man and his music, both which have enriched the lives and stirred the spirits of millions.

But *Mighty Wind* is more than just a celebration of a lifetime's journey. It also points the way to a new musical chapter in Andrae's ever unfolding artistry. Unlike his previous solo projects, *Mighty Wind* was, from its incep-

tion, created to be purely inspirational. "Styles and tastes change," Andrae says, of the guiding spirit behind his first studio album of newly recorded strength to strength over the course of more than thirty albums. Awe inspiring and infused with deep devotional power, *Mighty Wind* was produced by



Andre Crouch

music since 1997's acclaimed pray. "Yet the message of the gospel never changes. I try to bring that truth into a contemporary setting, through melody and rhythm and lyrics that will draw people in. But I guess you could say that the more things change, the more they stay the same. And god's truth is always the same; yesterday, today and tomorrow."

It's a truth that finds uplifting expression on a collection that clearly stands as a new high water mark for an artist who has consistently gone from

andrae, along with accomplished collaborator Luther "Mano" Hanes and features and A-list assembly of supporting musicians and vocalists, including such notable special guests as Pastor Marvin Winans, Fred Hammond, Tata Vega, Crystal Lewis, and Karen Clark-Sheard. Small wonder *Mighty Wind* soars on eagle's wings from the first stirring notes of "I Was Glad," to the last, fading refrain of the glorious title track. In between, Andrae and his team offer up a musical feast that features the

exhilarating "Thank You For Everything," to the transcendent "Bless The Lord," to a version of the time honored "Softly And Tenderly," which is sure to become a defining version of this familiar hymn. Other standout selections include "O Give Thanks,"

Mixing old and new, traditional and contemporary, Andrae has also managed to blend the pulished production values for which he is renowned with the spontaneous energy of an up close and personal gospel service. It's a feat accomplished with the help of such renowned vocal powerhouses as The San Diego Mass Choir along with the acclaimed choir at the New Christ Memorial Church of God In Christ, where Andrae has been a pastor since the late Nineties. "It's one thing to go into a studio and cut an album," Andrae asserts. "It's another to bring with you a group and brothers and sisters who have shared your life with you. That's one of the things that makes this album so special to me."

Both Andrae's artistic integrity and musical acumen are backed up by a life time of experience, a rich history that encompasses many of the most significant musical moments of the last half century. Hailing from San Francisco, Andrae cut his creative teeth singing and playing piano in his father's church. Despite being entirely self taught, he was writing his own songs by age ten and went

on to form the Church Of God In Christ singers along with keyboard great Billy Preston and his sister Sandra Crouch.

It was in the mid sixties that he brought together a fledgling group of young vocalists and musicians to create the world renowned Disciples, writing, arranging and producing music that transformed the appeal and artistry of gospel music forever.

As the leader and creative spark of The Disciples, Andrae's God given gifts earned him an international following unprecedented among gospel artist. During their two decade tenure, they performed for sold out crowds in over 50 countries, and recorded such enduring gospel classics as "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power," "Through It ALL" and "Bless His Holy Name," all written by Andrae. Another Crouch original.

But Andrae was just getting started. Launching a solo career in the mid eighties, he would go on to leave his distinctive musical mark as a writer and arranger on chart topping hits that effortlessly crossed the pop/gospel divide, working with everyone from Madonna to Diana Ross to Elton John and a host of others. As founder of the famed Andrae Crouch Singers, he oversaw the groups pivotal participation on Quincy Jones' landmark 1990 release, *Back On The Block*. The group would also be front and

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The Judge's Chambers

U.S. Supreme Court poised for landmark ruling on schools, race

It has been more than 50 years since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, ruling that racially segregated public schools were unconstitutional. Over the years, the judgment has had its share of challengers but, with a few exceptions, the decision has remained on solid ground.

Things may be changing, however. The court has agreed to consider two separate lawsuits filed in Seattle, Wash., and Louisville, Ky. The white parents involved in each suit say the public school systems in their area unconstitutionally discriminate based on race.

These will be the first race-related constitutional cases for President George W. Bush's recently appointed, conservative justices, John Roberts and Samuel A. Alito. With the court stacked in favor of the conservatives, these cases have the potential to upset the landmark *Brown* ruling, forever affecting the educational opportunities available to our children.

Despite the long hard fight for integration many U.S. communities and, as a result, their schools are voluntarily separated along racial lines. However, more and more school districts, like those in Seattle and Louisville, have begun to realize the importance of a racially diverse educational system. An overwhelming

majority of parents also support diverse schools.

Study after study has shown that schools in predominantly black and Latino communities have a disproportionate number of under-qualified teachers than racially diverse schools or those with a majority white population do. Combined with the lack of essential resources--current textbooks, modern computer labs--and you've got an environment that is not conducive to success.

It's no wonder that nearly half of all black and Latino students drop out of high school in some inner-city school districts. Of those that do graduate, many are unprepared for college and the workforce. Racially integrated schools level the playing field, providing all students with the tools they need to realize their dreams.

The court delivered the first major legal setback for race-based admissions after hearing *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*. In 1978, the court struck down the University of California, Davis, Medical School's admission plan, which reserved 16 spots for minority students.

By striking down such a practice, the ruling appeared to threaten the underlying principles of affirmative action.

Fortunately, the court, although divided in its decisions, has upheld the basic principles of the

1954 ruling. This is the first case of its kind the court has agreed to hear, since ruling in 2002 that race could be a factor in admission at the University of Michigan. Why the court agreed to hear the case, however, is a mystery. All three federal appeals courts to hear both cases in the last few years sided with the school systems; the Supreme Court usually only steps in to settle conflicts in the lower courts. With the lower courts in agreement, it appeared that this would not be a case for the high court.

Perhaps the current anti-affirmative action justices realized that, this time,



Judge Greg Mathis
Chairman of the Rainbow
PUSH- Excel Board
and a national member of
the Southern Christian
Leadership Conference

they have the numbers they need to strike down affirmative action laws. The court is expected to rule on the cases some time next year.

"Separate but equal" does not work. It's a fact with years of data to support it. Let's hope that, as these cases are considered, common sense and the needs of the larger society triumph over polit-

ical leanings.

It's beyond time for the Supreme Court, and those that continue to challenge diverse school systems, to move on.

Judge Greg Mathis is national vice president of Rainbow PUSH and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.



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continued from page 15

natory "it's who you know" hiring practice but no one takes responsibility.

The NAACP recognizes two groups who can directly affect this practice and because of the enormous power and influence that they wield and the top down pressure they can exert must be held accountable; the WGA, of which many if not all of the show runners are members, and the network executives who employ the show runners and empower them to hire.

The news is not all bad. On the one hour dramatic front, bolstered by the success of series like ER, CSI, Law and Order, Grey's Anatomy and 'Lost, every network can point to shows on their schedule and count

diverse roles. When it comes to one hour dramas the emphasis is principally on multiethnic ensemble casts.

ABC continues to be a progressive leader when it comes to diversity in dramatic programming. Although, there is some consternation in our community over the way the Applewhites' story line ended on Desperate Housewives -- murderous young black man hiding out in suburbia.

Launching the largest number of new scripted shows, ABC continues to build on its successful line up that includes Lost and Grey's Anatomy.

Betty the Ugly is executive produced by Selma Hayek and has Vanessa Williams as a series regular. Men in Trees, with series regular John Amos,

takes place in Alaska and seems to provide an organic opportunity to include Native Americans. The Nine features Chi McBride. Six Degrees, with Jay Hernandez, has a diverse cast and a theme that demonstrates how all our lives are interconnected. Day Break is a mid-season replacement with a young diverse cast starring Taye Diggs.

We applaud CBS and its hit series The Unit, starring Dennis Haysbert.

This is currently the only one-hour drama starring an African American male lead on a major network in the fall line up. While minorities are increasingly being cast as ensemble players in one hour dramatic series, The Unit is an ensemble show which promotes Haysbert as its star.

Spike Lee directed the new James Woods courtroom drama, Shark. Jericho, is a one-hour drama about the survivors of a nuclear holocaust. It takes place in a small town in Kansas. Lennie James is a series regular. We hope he is not the only minority survivor and that we will see Native Americans, Hispanics and African Americans alive and well in Kansas. Building on its popular CSI franchise, at least on the dramatic front, CBS continues its commitment to diversity on television.

NBC builds on its hugely successful Law and Order franchise. All of its new dramas have diverse casts Kidnapped starring Delroy Lindo along with Mykelti Williamson and Carmen Ejogo. Other encouraging shows to watch for includes Heroes, this one-hour drama chronicles the lives of a multi ethnic group of ordinary people who find out they have some extraordinary abilities. There is the sports drama based on the film Friday Night Lights. The highly anticipated Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip has DL Hughley as a series regular.

FOX has the most popular and most diverse show on television, American Idol. FOX continues the successful formula it found in having a diverse ensemble cast on shows like Prison Break and House. This fall they are launching Vanished starring Ming Na, one of the few Asian series regulars on network television this season. Tim Story directed the pilot and will executive produce Standoff. Justice, a courtroom drama from Jerry Bruckheimer features Eamonn Walker as one of

four disparate lawyers who are the "dream team" that tackle the most controversial and newsworthy cases.

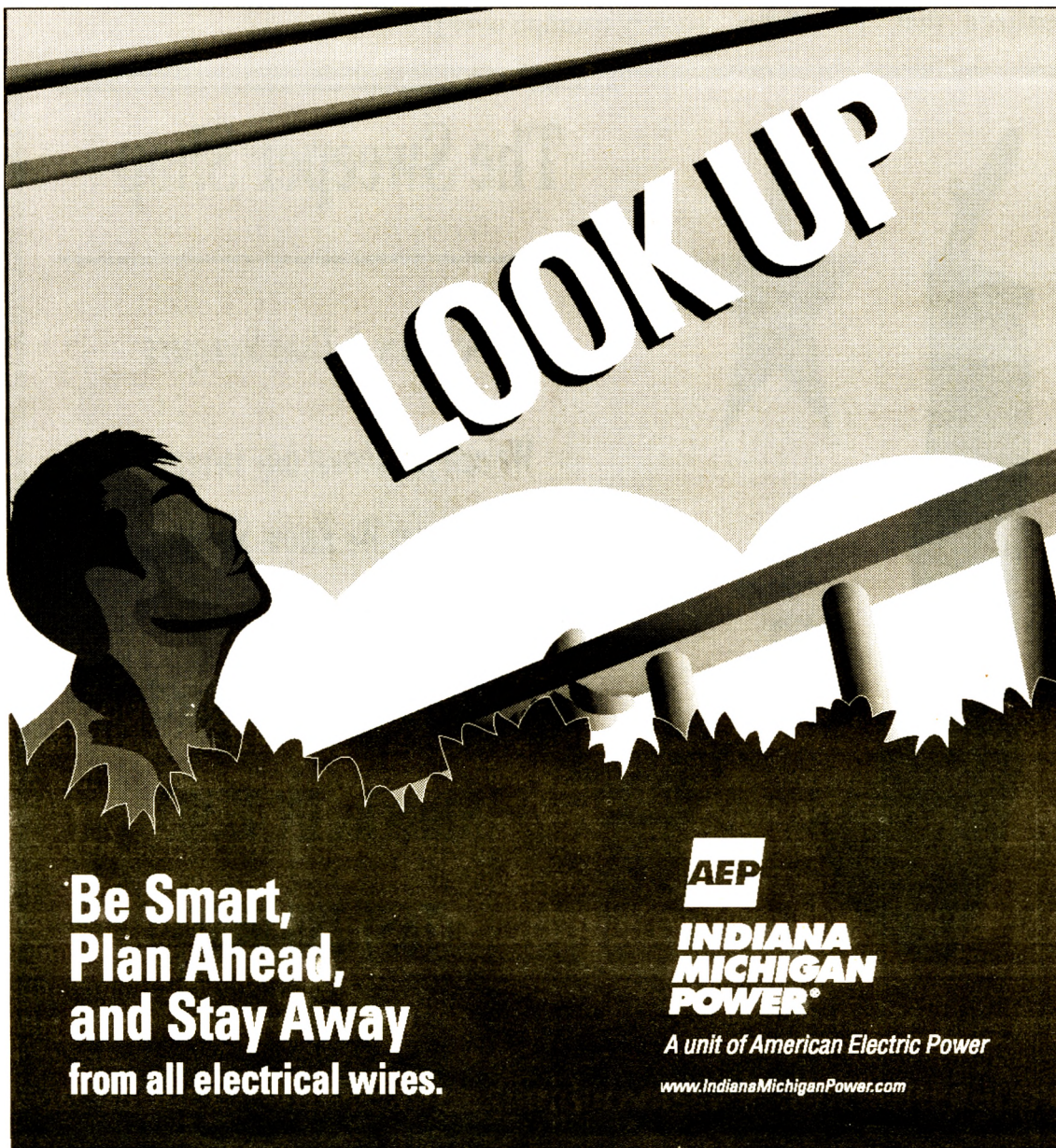
FOX's strong commitment to diversity programming is seemingly undermined by their continuing support for the O.C. and The Loop. These two shows, targeted at young adults, do not have diverse casts for unknown purely creative reasons.

On the dramatic side the CW has the Tyra Banks' hit reality series Americas Next Top Model. It must be noted that "Reality TV" seems to inherently better reflect the diversity of our culture. NAACP leadership has met with the CW executives and are encouraged that they are committed to diversity and will be launching new programs to reflect that commitment.

They were also asked to take a close look at the casting on its shows One Tree Hill and Smallville. Again, two shows, targeted at young adults, that do not have diverse casts for creative reasons.

The network executives have come to recognize that minority viewers have a tremendous impact on a network's overall rating. Nearly one-third of the viewing audience is diverse. Removing minority numbers from the viewing audience overall would cause ratings to drop considerably.

Paraphrasing the words of Martin Luther King, no one wants to be "judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." We profoundly hope that the entertainment community will continue to use these words as inspiration.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled By Andre' Scott

Ind. lynching survivor Cameron dies in Wis.

James Cameron, a man who was saved from a lynching 76 years ago, died Sunday in Milwaukee. He was 92. Cameron, along with two friends, was arrested and accused of killing a white man during a robbery and raping the man's companion in Marion, Ind., in 1930.

A mob broke into the jail, forcibly removed Cameron's friends and lynched them. Next they seized Cameron and placed a noose around his neck. "With the noose around my neck, and death in my brains, I waited for the end," he wrote in his memoir *A Time of Terror*.

With the rope around his neck, Cameron said he prayed to God to have mercy on him. Then, from out of nowhere, a voice called out that Cameron had nothing to do with the robbery or the murder. The voice, which Cameron sometimes defined as an angel's, must have been very convincing because the mob obeyed, took Cameron down from the tree and returned him to jail.

For Cameron, his prayers were answered and for the rest of his life this narrow brush with death was a story he would tell again and again.

With each telling, the incident was no less harrowing.

Cameron was 16 and making a few bucks shining shoes when he was approached by his friends, Thomas Shipp, 18, and Abram Smith, 19, to be the lookout man for a robbery they had planned. But when Cameron recognized the victim as one of his customers, he balked.

He returned the gun they had given him and walked away from the robbery. A few blocks away, he heard the gunshots. Almost immediately the three were arrested and Cameron was placed on a floor above the cells where Shipp and Smith were held. From his cell window he watched the mob storm the jail and take his friends out, one at a time, beating them and dragging them off to be hanged.

For his involvement in the crime, Cameron spent 4 years in prison, all the while maintaining his innocence. In 1993 he was pardoned by Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh.

He moved to Milwaukee in the early 1950s, married and had children. He worked as a laborer. He founded the Black Holocaust Museum in 1988, which not only documented the atrocity of lynching, but showcased a cavalcade of black history and culture.

Except for a few books, particularly Ralph Ginzburg's *100 Years of Lynching*, the brutality of lynching was rarely ever discussed.

Cameron, during his

lectures and exhibits, spent the rest of his life making sure the subject was given a living human face.

Despite the near-death experience, Cameron never expressed any outrage or anger about the incident. "Anger is a disease," he often told reporters.

Even so, he was determined, through his lectures, books, exhibits and museum to do all he could to prevent another lynching. He was also present in Washington, D.C., last year when the U.S. Senate apologized for its silence on lynching.

A few years ago, when the photo exhibit and book *Without Sanctuary* toured the nation, Cameron was often on hand to speak as a survivor.

N.C. hog workers try to unionize

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Trying to keep up the momentum from a recent Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals ruling, angry pork plant workers from Smithfield Foods in Tar Heel, N.C., are leaving the tobacco roads and crisscrossing the country this week to gain national support of a boycott of Smithfield's pork products.

"We're getting the message out about the conditions of the workers at Smithfield, the changes that should be made and how having a contract for the workers could change a lot of things at that

plant," said Edward Morrison, a former worker at the plant, who was scheduled to speak at the events in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and in North Carolina.

"Find an alternative product if you can, besides Smithfield products.

If they don't want to listen, then start hitting them in the pocket."

The workers, who have teamed up with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) and other labor and civil rights groups, have launched their "A Change to Win Week" to bring more attention to what they call sub-par working conditions in the plant and the company's illegal practices to curb the formation of a union.

Court documents said the company had instigated practices ranging from threats of termination and wage freezes, to ordering one worker to stamp hogs with a "Vote No" stamp.

Rallies, supermarket initiatives, and church services will be held in seven of Smithfield's retail markets, including Richmond, Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Raleigh and Boston, said Leila McDowell, a spokesperson for the UFCW.

"It's just the beginning," McDowell said of the campaign that also includes a national advertising campaign.

Joseph W. Luter IV, president and CEO of Smithfield Packing Co.,

says in a statement, "Since the UFCW has chosen this week to launch a nationwide "anti-Smithfield" campaign, we must question the sincerity of the union's motives now. If the union's campaign succeeds, the people who will be hurt the most are the Smithfield employees that the union claims to want to help."

Smithfield Foods is the largest hog producer and pork processor in the world and nets \$7 billion annually under the name of Smithfield Foods.

That figure doesn't include 32 other international acquisitions that also include beef production.

Since the plant opened in 1992, there have been two union elections, in 1994 and 1997, during which a fight broke out resulting in the arrests of some union supporters by a special Smithfield police department allowed by state law. The union lost both elections.

Court documents said Smithfield insisted the company did not unlawfully coerce anyone in an anti-union effort.

But the court sided with the National Labor Relations Board and upheld a "cease and desist" order the NLRB issued to Smithfield in 2004 "forbidding the company from interfering with, restraining, or coercing its employees in the exercise of their rights" under the National Labor

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- A homeowner rented a "lift" to trim trees and limbs around a power line. One of the limbs made contact with the energized line and he received an electrical shock. He fell from the lift and was seriously injured.

If you, your friends or your family members work around power lines, please take a moment to reflect on these examples.

The message is simple: be careful when you're working around electricity.

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Best wishes,



Marsha P. Ryan



A unit of American Electric Power

A safety message from Marsha P. Ryan President and Chief Operating Officer, Indiana Michigan Power

Electricity is a valuable and fundamental part of modern living. But if it is not used properly, electricity can cause serious injury – even kill. Every year, people are injured after making contact with energized electrical equipment. The examples below are actual incidents that have occurred.



- A member of a paving crew was fatally injured while working behind a paving truck. When the dump truck bed was raised, it made contact with an electric line. Tragically, the worker was contacting the truck.
- A fencing contractor using a power auger to dig holes for fence poles received an electrical shock when he drilled into an underground conductor. He was treated at a local hospital.
- While digging a trench, a backhoe operator raised the digging arm into energized power lines. Fortunately, no one was injured.

It's not always professional workers who are injured. This time of year, homeowners often tackle maintenance projects that put them too close to power lines.

- A woman installing gutters on a home was carrying an extended aluminum ladder away from the house when it made contact with an overhead line. She was hospitalized.

Purdue's iris-scanning technology could eliminate disaster fraud

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind.--Purdue University is developing hand-held iris scanners that could be used to identify disaster victims and help prevent "double dipping" and other fraud that can occur during aid distribution.

The Government Accountability Office recently reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may have improperly disbursed more than \$1 billion by not validating the identity of aid registrants in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The GAO cited the example of one person receiving \$139,000 in aid by registering 13 times using different Social Security numbers. Other recipients altered their names or addresses or borrowed names from

children or prisoners to obtain extra aid.

A possible solution from Purdue's Biometric Standards, Performance & Assurance Laboratory would allow aid workers to capture a digital image of the recipient's iris when he or she registers for aid. The iris-scanning camera is attached to a personal digital assistant (PDA) that sends the image wirelessly to a central repository hosting a database of all users who have previously been issued aid. If a new image matches an existing image, aid would be denied.

"The human iris is the most unique biometric characteristic of an individual person to date," said lead researcher Mamadou Niang.

"Iris scanning could serve very well as a tool

for accountability and deterrent to fraud."

Purdue biometrics researcher Matthew Young, Erik Kukula and Shimon Modi were recently in Washington, D.C., with their laboratory director, Stephen Elliott, an assistant professor of industrial technology and faculty member at Purdue's Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security. They were meeting with fellow members of the International Committee for Information Technology Standards' M1 Technical Committee to create and modify national biometric standards. Such standards help ensure the interoperability of biometric technologies, such as iris scanning, in government applications.

"Unlike other identification systems, Purdue's concept does not require any paper documents or for users to be registered in the system before the disaster," Young said. "The system is portable, quick, accurate and self-sustaining--all key factors in a time of chaos and destruction."

Elliott said iris scanning is likely to be accepted more readily by members of the public who might be resistant to having their fingerprints taken. Elliott also said iris scanning could possibly be used to identify emergency and medical personnel trying to enter a disaster area, a need made evident last year when volunteers rushing to help were denied access for security reasons.

The concept would

require creating a national database filled with iris images from workers who are prepared to mobilize in time of emergency. Their identities then could easily be verified by iris scanning when they arrive at a disaster.

Niang said iris scanning is already being used by the United Nations to monitor aid distribution to refugees in Afghanistan, but the scanners there are in fixed, sometimes inconvenient, locations.

Niang expects mobile credentialing with iris-scanning technology will be useful to the U.N.'s High Commission for Refugees, the International and American Red Cross, and the Department of Homeland Security, including FEMA.

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S O C I A L S E C U R I T Y

Getting replacement Social Security card is easy

By James Warrner

Social Security district manager in Muncie

Just the other day one of my neighbors stopped me in my driveway and said that she had lost her social Security card. She wondered what she needed to do to replace it.

I told her that replacing a lost or misplaced Social Security card is a

free service and that we try to make the process as simple as possible.

But I also told her that the law requires anyone applying for a replacement card must offer specific proofs of identity and citizenship. If you or someone you know find yourself in the same situation as my neighbor, here is important information to keep in mind. It can make your application

process go more quickly and efficiently.

To get a replacement card, you will have to fill out an application For A Social Security Card (Form SS-5) and show us certain documents.

To prove identity, an acceptable document must be current (not expired) and show your name, identifying information (date of birth or age) and, preferably, a

recent photograph. For example, we would accept a U.S. driver's license or passport, or state issued no driver identification card. If you do not have one of these documents or cannot get one within 10 days, we will ask to see other personal identity documents, such as an employee ID card, a school ID card, a health insurance card, a U.S. military ID card or an adoption decree.

To prove citizenship, acceptable documents include a U.S. birth certificate, U.S. consular report of birth, U.S. passport, Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship. Non-citizens must provide documentation to prove legal immigration status and work authorization.

It is very important to remember that all documents must be originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. We will mail your replacement social Security card and number to you as soon as we have all of your information and have verified your documents.

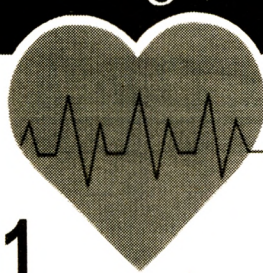
It is also important to keep in mind that your are limited to three Replacement cards in a year and 10 your life-

time. Legal name changes and other exceptions, such as changes in non-citizen status that require card updates, do not count toward these limits. Also, you may not be affected by these limits if you can prove you need the card to prevent a significant hardship.

Finally, I would like to share with everyone the same advice that I gave my neighbor. You should treat your Social Security number as confidential information and avoid giving it out unnecessarily. Keep your Social Security card in a safe place with your other important papers. Do not carry it with you unless you need to show it to an employer or service provider. This will minimize the chances of losing your Social Security card or having it stolen.

If you would like more information about how to get a Social Security replacement card, just visit our Web Site at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can call our toll-free number at 1-800- 772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the publication, Your social Security Number And Card.

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NEWS BRIEFS

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Relations Act.

Luter, the president and CEO of Smithfield, released a statement last week saying the company would not appeal the court's decision.

"Smithfield respects and accepts the court's judgment, even though we strongly disagree with the findings. We have argued strenuously that the allegations the union made concerning Smithfield's conduct during both elections were false. But we recognize that we have lost our case in court."

Luter, who also announced his resignation as CEO, said "When a new election is called, we will comply fully with the NLRB's remedies to assure a fair vote that represents the wishes of our plant's employees."

We believe that our plant should have the right to choose whether to unionize, and we respect the choices they make."

After receiving complaints from the United Food and Commercial Workers, the NLRB investigated the Bladen County plant that kills 30,000 hogs per day and has about 6,000 employees, the largest hog-killing facility in the country.

The NLRB found the company used a number of scare tactics, including the confiscation of union materials, unfair discipline of employees displaying interest in union activities and the firing of

four union supporters, Rayshawn Ward, Lawanna Johnson, Margo McMillan and Ada Perry.

In the May decision, the court also ordered the jobs of the four employees be reinstated.

Jerry Hostetter, a spokesman for Smithfield, did not return telephone calls from the NNPA seeking comment.

The workers and supporter the Rev. Graylan Hagler said organizing the

union at Smithfield will address other problems at the plant, including safety and racial discrimination issues including threatening immigrants with deportation.

Hagler, the pastor of the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington, D.C., is the president of Ministers for Racial, Social, Economic Justice, a coalition of more than 600 congregations.

Hagler and some ministers from the group recently visited the plant and said he was disappointed to see only two black supervisors in the plant that Human Rights Watch report said was nearly 60 percent Hispanic immigrants and 40 percent black.

"Basically you have overwhelmingly white supervisors in a plant that is mostly people of color. It's that, it's the issues around safety, it's the issues around workers being able to advocate for themselves," he said.

Morrison explained that Smithfield often tried to

divide black and Latino workers by having them physically separated, working in different areas to dissuade any type of solidarity that could help bring a union.

"They would always tell us don't get mixed up in this stuff about the union, if you talk about the union they will fire you, (and) having the Hispanics think they'll bring in INS if they try to vote for a union," he said.

Immigration controversy leaves African Americans very deeply divided

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- As the African American community debates whether Hispanic immigrant workers create competition for jobs with low-income blacks, the president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists says too little attention is being paid to educated immigrants taking high-tech jobs away from middle- and upper-class African Americans.

"That is much more of a threat to us than picking lettuce," said William Lucy, president and founder of the labor group.

There is one facet of the recent immigration bill passed by the U.S. Senate that Lucy said blacks in technology should be especially concerned about: the 200,000 guest visas the country would allow annually.

Nearly 12 million illegal immigrants live and work in the United States,

according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

Over the last 10 years, the annual quota for the H-1B Visas, specifically for highly-educated and skilled immigrants, has fluctuated between 65,000 and 195,000, depending on how well the high-tech and scientific markets were doing.

Under the H-1B Visa, immigrant workers can stay in the United States for up to 6 years or even 10 years in some cases. After the first year of the visa, they aren't counted into the annual quota, allowing a new wave of immigrants to enter the country.

Lucy said the increasing number of blacks earning degrees in technology and engineering don't need to worry about competition from Mexico, but from other countries.

"It's much more dramatic at the high wages," he said. "These are the jobs that are going to India and Pakistan."

Legislation recently passed by the Senate would set up a guest worker program, primarily for Hispanics, and allow a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants already living and working in the United States.

A stronger, more punitive bill passed earlier by the U.S. House of Representatives would declare undocumented workers felons and speed their return to their homelands.

Emotions run high on

both sides of the immigration debate and it is not yet clear whether the House and Senate can reach a compromise acceptable to both chambers.

National opinion polls show that while African Americans are generally supportive of undocumented workers, they worry about the possibility of losing jobs.

Recent data from the Department of Labor shows that despite the creation of 138,000 new jobs in April, the overall black unemployment rate is 9.4 percent, well above the national unemployment rate of 4.7 percent.

One newly-created group, Choose Black America, believes that unlawful immigration can exacerbate that gap.

"This is not an argument with Hispanics. I don't care who it is. If you have 12 million anybody coming in, it's going to come out of my pocket," says a member of the group, Kevin Fobbs, president of the Nation Urban Policy Action Council in Detroit.

"It's not a radical idea to stand up for protecting your children or protecting your community. It's not being racist. It's not being politically incorrect. It's being American."

Although Fobbs views illegal immigrants as taking from the federal treasury and not giving anything back, the Urban Institute released a study that found the opposite.

In addition to undocumented

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continued from page 20 center on both Michael Jackson's smash "Man In The Mirror," for which Andrae served as a vocal arranger, as well as Jackson's much anticipated 2001 comeback album, *Invincible*. He also made notable contributions to the soundtracks of such hit films as *The Color Purple* (again collaborating closely with Quincy Jones), *The Lion King*; and *Free Willy*, for which he wrote yet another Michael Jackson hit, "You Will Be There."

Such outstanding contributions to the musical state of the art naturally led to numerous awards and honors, including no less than eight Grammys and a recent induction into the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame. In 2005, he received a Life Time Achievement Award at the inaugural Salute To Gospel Music held by NARAS.

Andrae Crouch, one of the most enduring and talented reigning masters of gospel music, is set to release *Mighty Wind*, his first studio album in eight years. The album is being released on Crouch's Slave Records imprint through a new deal with Verity Records/Zomba Gospel. The release of his latest project also marks 40 years in music ministry for this prolific producer and songwriter.

Max Siegel, president of Zomba Gospel, says, "Andrae Crouch is a musical gift to the world. His songs are timelessly powerful, and his influence crosses all barriers. It is an honor for

Verity/Zomba gospel to be his new label home."

"Recording *Mighty Wind* was truly a labor of love, and the songs were born directly from my experience as both a pastor and an artist," explains Andrae. "I looked to God for His strength, guidance and encouragement, and I was joined by some very

Marvin Winans, and "O Give Thanks," which features Fred Hammond. Other guests on the album include Karen Clark-Sheard, Crystal Lewis, Tata Vega and saxophonist Gerald Albright.

Crouch has penned some of the most seminal songs in gospel music. At the age of 14, Andrea

ing rendition of "Maybe God's Trying To Tell You Something" (from featuring Tata Vega on lead), and the theme from the NBC sitcom *Amen*. Crouch, who is credited with revolutionizing the sound of contemporary gospel music, was one of the first black gospel artists to crossover to

Tabernacle Choir, Take 6, Michael W. Smith and a host of other artists performing some of his classic songs.

Andrae Crouch has won numerous awards and honors over the years including eight Grammy Awards; three Dove Awards; and ASCAP, Billboard and NAACP



New Direction

gifted artists and friends that helped make the recording even more special. I've found a dream home in Verity Records for my artistry and music, and people have told me this may be my best record ever, so I couldn't be happier."

Mighty Wind features 14 songs produced by Andrae Crouch and Luther "Mano" Hanes. The first single, "I Was Glad," is already heating up at radio. The album also features "All Because Of Jesus," with a guest performance by pastor

wrote one of his best known compositions, "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power." Some of his other classics include "Through It All;" "Jesus is the Answer;" "It Won't Be Long;" "Take Me Back;" "My Tribute (To God Be The Glory);" "Soon & Very Soon," and many more. Andrae's gift of music has allowed him opportunities to work with superstars such as Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones, Diana Ross, and Elton John. He also scored the film *The Color Purple* (who can forget the rous-

mainstream contemporary Christian music, and his songs have become staples and popular hymns in churches all around the world. He has performed in over 68 countries including England, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Japan and South Africa; and his song, "My Tribute," has been covered over 600 times. In 1996, Crouch's songs were the impetus for the Grammy Award-winning CD, *Tribute: The Songs of Andrae Crouch*, which featured the Brooklyn

Awards. In 2004, he became the only living contemporary gospel artist and just the third in history to have his star enshrined on the prestigious Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 2005, Crouch was the recipient of NARAS' Inaugural Salute to Gospel Music Lifetime Achievement Award.

Although Crouch is at a pinnacle point in his global musical ministry, he continues to inspire audiences and artists alike and remains a force to be reckoned with the release of *Mighty Wind*.

T O B E E Q U A L

Lenders, brokers exploit unwary African American home buyers

By Marc H. Morial

A recent study by the Durham, N.C.-based Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) concluding that African Americans are more likely than whites to fall into the high interest high-cost mortgage loan trap 'fuels the fire of a longstanding debate about predatory lending practices by financial institutions.

The center's overall conclusion is not new: numerous studies have confirmed it in the past. In 2004, a study by Columbia University Professor Lance Freeman that as part of the State of Black America 2006 concluded that black homeowners in the 1990s obtained mortgages with interest rates that were six-tenths of a percentage point higher than their white counterparts. In an August 2005 investigation, the Charlotte Observer found that African Americans who borrowed from the nation's top 25 banks were four times more likely to pay higher rates.

Before now, lenders have said they had a perfectly legitimate reason for charging minorities higher interest rates. They claimed they needed to compensate for the higher risk associated with lending to minorities. They asserted that incomes of African Americans tended to be lower, their credit histories shakier and their

down payments were lower than those of whites. But the difference here is that for the first time researchers compared apples to apples' or rather blacks to whites of similar credit risk.

The center found that when even controlling for credit scores, down payments and income, blacks were still 31 percent more likely than whites to be steered into a high interest rate on a fixed-rate home mortgage. CRL offered two possible explanations: that black borrowers were purposely charged higher rates by individual loan sellers or were purposely steered to higher-rate loan sellers.

Their findings further prove what we've suspected all along: African Americans are still at a major disadvantage when it comes to obtaining mortgage loans when they are as qualified as white borrowers.

There is no question that sub-prime lending has helped propel black homeownership to all-time highs, but not without some casualties along the way. Under federal law, the responsibility of consumer protection lies on the borrower: The limit on interest rates and fees is their willingness to pay.

The self-regulated sub-prime market has given rise to some overly zealous brokers who have capitalized upon a lack of financial sophistication and past negative credit

experiences of some black borrowers to make a buck off them "not only through higher interest rates, but added undisclosed fees rolled into the cost of the loans.

In 2002, the Department of Housing and Urban Development reportedly estimated that brokers overcharged customers by nearly \$3 billion a year.

There is no doubt that an educated consumer is an excellent line of defense. The more borrowers know about lenders' practices the better decisions they will make and the less likely they'll accept high-cost loans or doing business with exploitative loan sellers. The market will then better regulate itself, with more educated consumers demanding only top-rate service. Currently, a bipartisan group of congressional lawmakers is reportedly weighing new legislation aimed at discouraging lenders from leading borrowers astray and into bad choices, including plans to improve education and require lenders to disclose more than just race and income information.

We urge Congress to act now. The first step to rectifying the problem of high-cost sub-prime mortgages lies in greater education and disclosure. The more aware homebuyers are of their options, especially African American homebuyers, the better. The more people know



Marc H. Morial
president and
CEO of the
National Urban
League.

about their potential lenders' practices the better. The more consumers that make the industry accountable, the less likely African American homebuyers will be exploited and the faster they'll reach their goal to economic security and achieving the American Dream.

Marc H. Morial is president and CEO of the National Urban League. You may contact him at: To Be Equal, 120 Wall St., New York City, NY 10005 (212) 558-5300 (phone), (212) 344-5332 (fax) info@nul.org



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mented workers paying sales tax for items they purchase, the Social Security Administration estimates that three-fourths of undocumented workers pay payroll taxes and contribute \$6 billion to \$7 billion into a Social Security system they are barred from enjoying.

Bernard Anderson, an economist and professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, said blaming the high African American unemployment on immigrant workers is unfair.

"Their (immigrant) presence in the American labor market has not had a major detrimental effect on the wages and employment of African American workers," Anderson said.

According to Anderson, there isn't any statistical evidence to back up the talk of immigrants "stealing" jobs from blacks.

"Most of it is based on observation and anecdotes. It's not based on systematic research," he said. "Either black workers have left the labor market altogether or black workers have moved on to other jobs that pay more or pay the same."

A 2004 study by George J. Borjas, a Harvard University professor of Economics and Social Policy, presents a contrary picture.

"Although the 1980-2000 immigrant influx lowered the wage of White workers by 3.5 percent and of Asians by only 3.1 percent, it

reduced the wage of Blacks by 4.5 percent and that of Hispanics by 5.0 percent.

The adverse impact of immigration, therefore, is largest for the most disadvantaged native-born minorities" the study said.

Claude Anderson, president of the Harvest Institute a Washington, D.C. based Black think tank, is deeply concerned about the issue.

"As a direct result of massive immigration, the last 50 years totally eradicated progress blacks made in income," he said.

According to the Census Bureau, between 1967 and 1990, there was a 12 percent increase in the black median family income. Over that same period, black income relative to White wages remained unchanged.

The Bureau reports that median black family household income of \$30,134 was the lowest of all.

By contrast, foreign-born households had a median income of \$39,421.

But this data includes all foreigners, such as the highly skilled and trained immigrants that labor leader Lucy mentioned.

Even members of the Hispanic community, such as Flavia Jimenez, an immigration policy analyst with the National Council of La Raza, a leading national Hispanic rights group, agrees the low wages immigrant workers accept hurts everyone-including the

immigrants.

"Big corporations are taking advantage of workers overall. Because of the illegal status of the undocumented workers, they hire them for fewer wages lowering, of course, the wages for African American workers," Jimenez said.

The Pew Hispanic Center released a Latino Labor Report in 2004 and showed with the constant influx of new immigrants competing with other more established immigrants, weekly earnings for Hispanics dropped in 2003 and 2004.

The report also revealed that wages for black workers increased in 2003 but declined by 1 percent in 2004, while Hispanic workers wages fell 2.2 percent in 2003 and another 2.6 percent in 2004.

Fla. establishes council to study status of African American males

MIAMI--Fla.--When Jeffrey Jarnell Johnson Jr. attended a party days before his May graduation, he ended up in a contest with another youth outside the party.

The object of the contest was to show off their cars.

Johnson, a black male student who earned straight A's at Carroll City High School in Miami, ended the contest after pulling out his graduation cap to display his academic achievements. His

competitor lacked one.

What started out as youthful competition quickly turned into deadly rage. Perhaps out of jealousy or embarrassment, someone began shooting and Johnson was killed. Sen. Frederica S. Wilson (D-Miami) said tragedies like Johnson's death inspired her and other members of the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators to sponsor a "historic" bill, signed last week by Gov. Jeb Bush, that mandates a council to study conditions affecting black males in the state.

Florida is the third state in the nation to create such a council, following Indiana and Ohio.

The 19-member Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys will gather and analyze social disparities affecting black males such as dropout rates, arrests, homicides, poverty, health disparities and deaths.

The governor and other state officials will appoint from various parts of the state council members such as educators, legislators and psychologists. The council will be supported by the Attorney General's Office and will work with a \$250,000 budget.

Although the council will focus mainly on reporting information items and research to the state Legislature, FCBSL members said the council will not be "all talk and no action." Committees under the council will

travel to speak to various communities about the issues black males are facing in the state, and will organize with black leaders to help develop a culture of finding ways to combat the issues affecting their social status.

Wilson said some of the bill's sponsors and the Rev. Al Sharpton will travel this summer to hold town hall meetings and talk with black youths around the state.

"We're so used to lecturing, but we need to listen to the youth," Wilson said.

She said youths hold vital information needed to make a difference, such as who recruits boys to become gang members.

According to the legislators, many efforts exist to help black males, but the sponsors of the bill said the council can increase the collaboration of these efforts and make them stronger.

Rep. Frank Peterman Jr. (D-St. Petersburg), who sponsored the bill in the House, said establishing the council is a part of a fight for change in Florida. He said the struggle of blacks in Florida to make the government care about the unjust death of Martin Lee Anderson in a state boot camp highlights why this movement is necessary.

"The government has never before invested in black men," Wilson said. "We can no longer pretend the disparity is not

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NEWS BRIEFS

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real. Black boys are treated differently."

During a ceremonial bill signing, the black lawmakers highlighted the problems of high death rates, incarceration rates and the lack of black males who make it through the education system.

A sudden increase of homicides in Wilson's district since Jan. 1 led to the deaths of 25 black youths, she said, and cities such as Jacksonville and Orlando have similar crime rates.

According to the lawmakers Florida is 49th in public school dropout rates and many of those dropouts resort to crime. "It's hard to get out of the jail system that one-third of Florida's 'black men are in' Wilson said, "and most black families (nationwide) are impacted by this system."

Here's a look at other statistics that reflect the plight of black men: *In 2005 black men completed college at a rate of only 35 percent, according to the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

*Black males ages 18 to 24 have the highest homicide rates and offender rates, according to the U.S. Department of Justice

*An estimated 12 percent of black males in their late 20s were in prison or jail between 2004-2005, according to the U.S. Department of Justice

*According to The New York Times, more than

half of all black men do not finish high school in inner cities and in 2004 "six in 10 black male dropouts had spent time in prison by their mid-30s."

NAACP seeks to raise membership by next month

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- The NAACP, which has claimed an inflated 500,000 members for 60 years, has announced a new membership drive to finally reach that goal.

"We're flat. We're not where we need to be. Civil rights should be a growth business because there are a lot of conditions in this country that require it," says Bruce Gordon, nearing his first year as president. For years, the NAACP has inflated its membership numbers, according to sources that have seen membership records.

The last four executive directors/presidents-- Benjamin L. Hooks, Kweisi Mfume, Ben Chavis and now, Bruce Gordon, have cited a membership level of 500,000. However, sources with direct knowledge of the figures, say the actual number fluctuates between 150,000 and 250,000 members.

The Baltimore Sun said in a story, 2 years ago, that the NAACP has been reporting the 500,000 figure since 1946.

Gordon says he has confirmed an active membership of less than

300,000

after ordering a methodical search of membership data. "Those are accurate data according to membership files," Gordon says.

He declined to state his ultimate membership goal.

"I'm not trying to set public expectations," he says.

But, less than a year ago, Gordon told blackAmericaweb exactly where he wants to go.

"The NAACP has a 500,000-volunteer membership. I'd like to see 5 million members," he told Michael H. Cottman last July.

In recent years, under Chavis and Mfume, the NAACP has announced membership drives, none of which has gotten the organization close to 500,000 members.

A year ago, the NAACP announced a billboard campaign in 46 states.

There was no tangible evidence that the drive significantly increased the membership and some critics doubt whether this new drive, over such a short time period that ends with the opening of the national convention, July 15 to 20, in Washington, D.C., will be achieved.

"We've taken a lot of time to analyze our membership base, to look at the democratic mix of that membership base and to put the proper kind of programs in place to really now begin to accelerate membership drives," Gordon said.

"So, until we got all of that in place, we were not ready to crank up a new campaign"

Gordon says he is not after numbers just for the sake of numbers.

"We need enough people on the ground that is connecting broad-based areas of advocacy into a local context," he says. "So, we think nationally, but we need to act locally. And I expect our people to be in their communities, to be in their respective communities and to be engaged.

"Despite impressive civil rights gains in the last three decades, one need to look no further than Georgia's voter identification law and the way black New Orleanians were treated after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf to realize that we still have not reached the point where there is equality for all."

Defense lawyers, bloggers try to scuttle alleged Duke lacrosse team rape

DURHAM, N.C.--If the numerous Web sites, blogs, newspaper and magazine articles and columns from across the nation, in addition to the many cable TV and radio talk shows are any indication, Durham District Attorney Mike Nifong not only doesn't have any evidence to prosecute the Duke lacrosse alleged rape case with, but he should be forced to drop the charges against three indicted lacrosse players,

and step down from office, they say.

"I am writing "on behalf of one of the three young men who have been formally "and not only unjustly but very likely illegally accused" states a form letter lacrosse team supporters are urged to send out addressed to North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper at friendsofdukeuniversity.blogspot.com.

"There is no shortage of information in the lay press attesting to the dubious nature of the victim's claims and the questionable character of those who have come forward to fan the flames for her," the message continued.

The form letter then asks Cooper to investigate the prosecutor.

"I beg you to investigate Mr. Nifong's motives, methods, and actions and to involve yourself "with the intent of righting" what has become, literally, a travesty of justice in Durham."

Many of those boisterous, and in some cases, racist critics, even demand that the black female accuser, the exotic dancer who claims she was beaten and sodomized by the three Duke lacrosse players during a wild off-campus team party, should be exposed for filing a "false report," and prosecuted accordingly.

"What if [the alleged victim] lied?" an e-mailer named "Ben" wrote to

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www.ourheartsworld.com, a community-based Web site in support of the accuser's rights. "What if these young men are innocent victims of lies, and prosecutorial misconduct?"

"If" they do turn out to be innocent, then you are no better than (sic) common racists. Clearly blinded by your obvious hatred of white males (sic)."

Another e-mailer named "Robert" wrote, "The accuser's case is falling apart. People are starting to see her no longer as the 'victim,' but as the criminal she is."

"Robert," addressing the accuser's supporters, continued, "You embody everything that is pathetic about the Black race. You and your willful ignorance are one of the main reasons that there is still a racial divide in this country."

Indeed, based on motions recently filed by defense attorneys representing Colin Finnerty, 19 of Garden City, N.Y., Reade Seligmann, 20 of Essex Falls, N.J. and David Evans, 23 of Bethesda, Md., there are new questions, gleaned from the 1,278 pages of prosecution evidence turned over a month ago to the defense in discovery, about just how Durham police investigators went about confirming the accuser's allegations.

In fact, observers are bracing themselves as more damaging and

revealing evidence may be coming next week, as the prosecution was scheduled to turn over yet another batch of evidence to the defense before the end of June.

For instance, major headlines were made last week when it was reported that the second dancer involved in the case, Kim Roberts Pittman, who stands charged with embezzlement in an unrelated case, initially told investigating officers a week after the alleged assault that she thought the accuser's allegations were "a crock," and that the two were virtually together the whole time they were at the party.

Pittman has been previously been quoted as saying she was unaware of any rape occurring.

D.A. Nifong, who 2 months ago generously gave interviews to anyone that wanted one virtually proclaiming the lacrosse players guilty, has stayed mum for the past month.

Durham police indicated that it took them 31 hours to secure a search warrant for 610 N. Buchanan Blvd, the site of the party, because the alleged victim was not immediately forthcoming with the details.

Clearly if he went with only what the defense has made public, no indictments would have been forthcoming, which means Nifong should have more than he has so far allowed to be revealed.

Regarding contradic-

tions in what the medical exam after the alleged assault showed, a Durham police affidavit, a legal document, clearly indicates that a medical report on the accuser's injuries was subpoenaed from Duke Medical Center, and it showed "injuries consistent with being raped and sexually assaulted vaginally and anally."

So the public and press are currently up in arms about information that investigators already dealt with months ago, and have moved past to shore up their case.

Another indication that there's more to Nifong's case than meets the eye is the absolute failure of any leaked information from either the DA's Office or the police department designed to scuttle the case.

Normally, as proven in the state and federal government, when things are going badly and lower-rung agency employees feel a particular policy or practice is wrong, they call the press in an effort to secretly stop it.

That hasn't happened here, meaning that either it may still happen down the road, even after 3 months, or the D.A. and police have a case that isn't fully evident yet.

Critics also forget that initially, Durham police were trying to substantiate more than just rape, forcible sexual offense and kidnapping. According to the initial search warrants, investigators were also trying to build a case for common

law robbery and felonious strangulation.

Even though the alleged victim claimed that she was beaten, kicked, strangled and raped, only the first three charges survived further review, either before the grand jury presentations, or during.

That means Nifong's strongest evidence probably buttresses those three charges, according to some analysts.

Also, a great deal of computer, video and digital photo equipment was confiscated from the lacrosse players' dorm rooms. Several vehicles were also searched.

In fact, as evidence that the investigation continues, defense attorneys for three dozen of the 47 lacrosse players are trying to quash search warrants for team member addresses and school identification cards.

And what about that damning e-mail from lacrosse player Ryan McFadyen, the one he admittedly sent just an hour after the alleged assault from his dorm to the other players, suggesting that they have another party where they kill strippers, skin them and then get sexual gratification from it?

Police say they got a tip about that e-mail.

Still another area the defense says little about is the confrontation in the house between the black female dancers and the white drunken lacrosse players who, according to their neighbor, had been

drinking heavily since 2 p.m. and, according to the second dancer, were urinating out in the open.

All agree that at some point after the two dancers began to perform, the young men, at least 30 of them, became agitated and started to display a broom handle, the implication being that it could be used as a sex toy on the women. Racial epithets were also exchanged.

The women became frightened, eventually left the house and went to Kim

Pittman's car. The alleged victim then decided to go back alone for her shoe, money, cell phone and makeup kit.

Minutes later, she had to be carried out, without those items. Pittman says she went back to find the articles so they could leave, but no one knew where they were.

Police later recovered the makeup bag, cell phone, and \$160 in cash, as the accuser said she left, in addition to other items.

And finally, while everyone is focusing on the rape charge, critics forget

Finnerty, Seligmann and Evans are also charged with a forcible sexual offense, which can cover a wide range of actions against a victims will, and kidnapping.

If Nifong is able to prove just one of those first-degree felonies, the suspects may face 12 to 25 years in a North Carolina prison.



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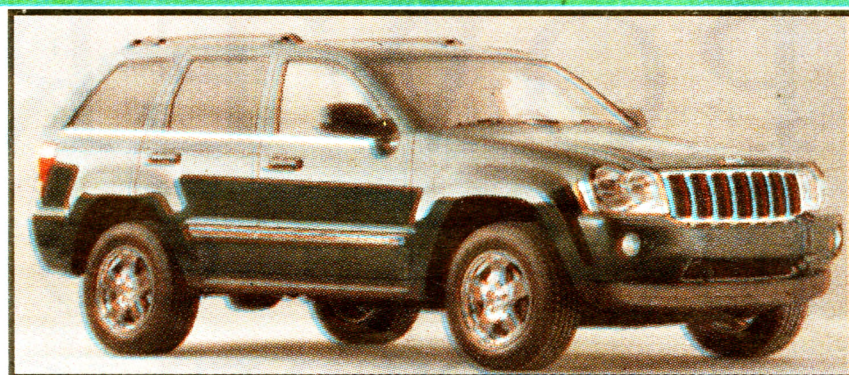
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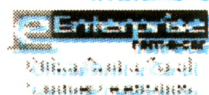
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RELIGION

“Jesus” The Most Precious Name I know

By Elder C.E. George

Thou shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21). These words were spoken by an angel of the Lord two thousand years ago about the birth of the Son of the living God. When God's Son came forth into the world His mother called Him Jesus. The name of “Jesus” means “Jehovah has become Salvation.” That is who Jesus was. Jehovah God comes to the earth to save His people from their sins.

This one called Jesus was born of a virgin in a manger in Bethlehem. He lived a perfect holy and sinless life. At the age of thirty He was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. When He came forth out of the water the Spirit of God descended upon Him and a voice came from heaven that said, “This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.” Jesus began His ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. He had come to this earth for the purpose of saving sinners from their sins, and healing the sick and

diseased. During His earthly ministry. Jesus made the blind to see. He made the deaf to hear. He made the lame to walk, and the dumb to talk. Jesus even demonstrated power over nature. He could walk upon water and calm stormy seas. He could multiply a few fishes and loaves of bread and feed five thousand men beside women and children. No one has ever done the things that Jesus did while He was upon the earth. After living thirty three and one half years. Jesus completed the mission He had come to the earth to do. Jesus completed the mission He had come to the earth to do. Jesus went to a hill called Calvary and was crucified. On the cross, Jesus took the sins of the world in His own body and shed His blood and died to save sinners from their sins. Jesus took the sins of the world in His own body and shed His blood and died to save sinners from their sins. Jesus was taken from the cross and placed in a tomb. He laid dead for three days and three nights. But on the third day. Jesus rose from the dead to live forever more! Jesus ascended

into heaven and sat down upon the throne of God, where He lives and reigns today as King of kings and Lord of lords able to save all that come unto God by Him! Jesus!

Before Jesus went back into heaven. He told His disciples to go and preach repentance and remission of sins in His name among all nations. For two thousand years the followers of Jesus have been preaching that sinners can be forgiven through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout the years those who have believed upon the name of Jesus have had their lives changed by the power of the living God. Through the name of Jesus drunkards have been sobered, drug addicts delivered, demons cast out, broken hearts mended, empty lives filled and lost souls found! Through the name of Jesus broken homes have been restored, suicidal people have found reason to live the poor have found riches untold, and the lonely have found a friend that sticketh closer than a brother! Through the name of Jesus cancers have been dissolved, heart disease healed,

deaf ears unstopped and broken bones and lives have been restored! For two thousand years, millions of lives have been touched, changed and transformed by the power of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! No wonder the song writer wrote: Jesus, Jesus, Jesus sweetest name I know. It fills my every longing and keeps me singing as I go.

With that said it may seem strange that I have to write the following.

The blessed name of Jesus though it was considered by the early Church to be the most beautiful, powerful, blessed name in the universe it appears that that name has begun to be looked down upon despised and rejected by some that claim to be believers today. There has arisen a controversy with many about the name of Jesus. In our day there are some who claim to be Christians yet demonstrate animosity toward the name of Jesus. Some who claim to be preachers and children of God have actually spoken against and lived much of their lives fighting and opposing the name

of Jesus. I wish to pose to those who may have a problem with the name of Jesus this question: “What is wrong with the Name of Jesus?”

Why should there be any stigma or reproach toward the name of Jesus? Who among us can find any reason to fight or reject this name? What is so bad about the name that causes some to treat it the way they do? Before any would be tempted to reject the name of Jesus please consider the following Bible facts about that name.

Acts 4:12 states that Jesus is the only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. What could be so bad about the name that is the only name under heaven that can save sinners from sin?

Philippians 2:5-11 states that Jesus is a name above every name and at that name every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. What could be so bad about the name that is said to be above every name and before which every knee shall

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In Your Health

Indiana launches campaign to promote healthy student habits

INDIANAPOLIS--The Indiana State Department of Health has announced the launch of the INSight Youth Corps (Indiana's Network of Students Inspiring Good Health Today).

This statewide network of high school students will be trained to serve as mentors and leaders in their schools and communities to promote and teach healthy behaviors. The INSight Youth Corps is a student-led initiative developed out of INShape Indiana, a statewide health initiative to promote better nutrition, increased physical activity and smoking cessation.

"INSight couldn't have come at a better time," said State Health Commissioner Judith A. Monroe, M.D. "Our young people have the power and opportunity to serve as role models for healthy behavior. Indiana youth are improving in some areas of risky behavior, but we still have room for improvement."

The State Department of Health is working with the Indiana Area Health Education Centers in recruiting Indiana high schools to establish INSight Youth Corps in several school systems. Each INSight Youth Corps will deliver health education within their school system, as well as design and carry out various creative health-related projects.

"Learning to practice a healthy lifestyle is just like any other habit," said

Katherine Newland, director, Coordinated School Health Program at the Indiana State Department of Health. "We can learn healthy habits when we're young and hopefully practice them through our lives. The INSight Youth Corps was designed to help teach these healthy habits to Indiana's young people, so they can be healthy role models for their families and communities."

All INSight Youth Corps members will receive training on public speaking, developing educational programs, and leadership and teamwork skills. The members will then educate their peers, younger students, and members of the community on important health issues, including, but not limited to, INShape Indiana's core message of increased physical activity, good nutrition, and tobacco prevention.

According to the latest findings from the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), released on June 8 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Indiana high school students scored better than the national average in several areas, including:

- * 3.8 percent of Indiana's female youth said they rarely or never wear a seat belt when riding in a car, compared to 7.8 percent nationally;

- * 24.6 percent of Indiana high school students report riding with a driver who had been drinking

- alcohol one or more times during the past 30 days, versus 28.5 percent nationally; * 29.3 percent of Indiana youth report being in a physical fight during the past 12 months, compared to 35.9 percent nationally;

- * 21.8 percent of Indiana teens said they drank alcohol before age 13, versus 25.6 percent nationally; * 31.9 percent of Indiana youth report watching 3 or more hours of television every day, compared to 37.2 percent nationally. * 93.5 percent of Indiana teens report being taught about AIDS and HIV infection in school, versus 87.9 nationally.

However Indiana teens fare poorly compared to the national average in other areas:

- * 92.3 percent of Indiana teens report rarely or never wearing

- a bicycle helmet, versus 83.4 percent nationally; * 18.2 percent of Indiana high school students report purchasing cigarettes at a store or gas station, compared to 15.2 percent nationally; * 15.5 percent of Indiana youth eat five or more fruits and vegetable servings per day, compared to 20.1 percent nationally;

- * 20.5 percent of Indiana's male high school students are overweight, versus 16 percent nationally; * 38.7 percent of Indiana youth are enrolled in a physical education class, compared to 54.2 percent nationally.

- * 13.5 percent of Indiana's female high school students report dating vio-

lence, versus 9.3 percent nationally.

According to the CDC, Indiana is nearly on par with the national average in many areas, including condom use during last sexual intercourse (62.6 percent vs. 62.8 percent).

However when broken down by gender, Indiana females report higher rates of condom use than the national average (62.6 percent vs. 55.9 percent respectively), while males report lower rates (62.6 percent vs. 70 percent respectively).

For more information on starting an INSight Youth Corps in your school, contact Katherine Newland at (317) 234-3395 or log on to the INShape Indiana Web site at www.INShape.IN.gov.

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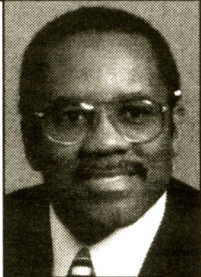
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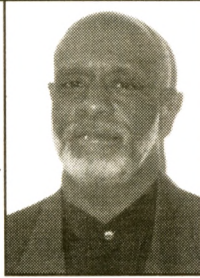
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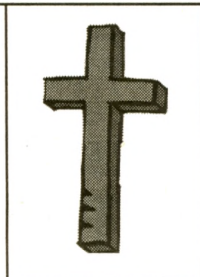
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Tuesday Prayer & Bible Band • 6:00 p.m.
Friday Night Pastoral Teaching 6:00 p.m.

Phone: 289-6262



Pastor Charles Coatie

New Liberty Baptist

1615 N. Elgin

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Church: 284-8231 • Home: 642-4012



Pastor L.D. Clay, Jr.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

820 S. Penn St.

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer • 12 Noon & 6:00 p.m.

Phone: 284-0138



New Hope Baptist

524 E. Willard

Sunday School • 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 5:30 p.m.
Womens Ministry 5:30 p.m.
Youth Church 5:30
Single Ministry 6:30 p.m.

Phone: 288-7023 or 284-4459



Pastor W.C. Edwards

Destiny Christian Center International

YWCA Community Room
310 E. Charles Street
765-288-8459

Services
Sunday Worship, 11:30 AM
Thursday Prayer, 6:30 PM
Thursday Bible Study, 7:00 PM
Downtown YMCA
500 S. Mulberry



Pastor Keith O'Neal

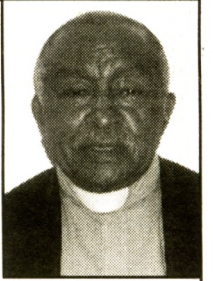
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Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 6:00 p.m.

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Pastor Elder Thomas Sowell

Paramount Community

1405 E. Willard

Broadcast • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School • 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:45 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study
10:30 a.m.

Phone: 282-3748

284-7169



Pastor Charlotte Levi

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Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
Wednesday Bible Study • 12:00 Noon
Wednesday Evening Study • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 284-6890



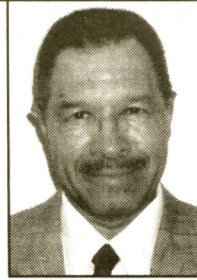
Pastor Dorothea Norwood

Shiloh Church of God in Christ

820 N. Blaine

Sunday School • 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 12:00 Noon
Evening Y.P.W.W. • 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.
Friday Worship • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 282-1869



Pastor Buddy Kirtz

Spiritual Baptist

1201 E. Jackson

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 282-1034



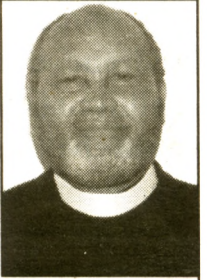
Pastor Mack Moses

Terrestrial Temple Church of God in Christ

2112 N. Turner

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 6:00 p.m.
Thursday Worship • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 288-8181



Pastor James Lawson

Trinity United Methodist Church

1210 S. Hackley St.

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.

Phone: 284-4515



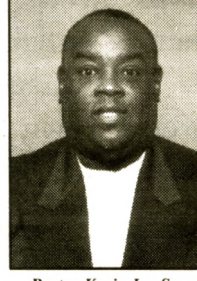
Pastor James M. Nave

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Tuesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m. & Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday - Friday Prayer • 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Phone: 286-3031



Pastor Wade Sloss

Union Chapel Ministries

4622 N. Broadway

Saturday Services
Evening Worship • 5:30 p.m.
JC Junction Children's Church 5:30 p.m.
Commonway Worship 7:00 p.m. (180 Bldg.)

Sunday Services

Sunday School • 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Services • 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
180 Youth Event • Sunday 6:00 p.m.

Phone: 288-8383 Office / 213-3977 180 Office



Pastor Gregg Parris

Union Missionary Baptist Church

1103 N. Macedonia St.
Sunday School • 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship • 7:00 a.m./10:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer • 10:0 a.m./6:00 p.m.
Wed. Children's Bible Study • 6:00 p.m. (annex)
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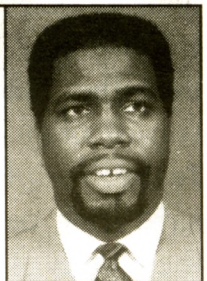
Pastor Willie J. Jackson, Sr.

Word Of Life Christian Church

1401 E. Kirby Ave.

Sunday Prayer • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 10:30 a.m.
The Zone (Youth Service) 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer • 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Service • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 284-6269




Pastor Bryant R. Crumes

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Church of God in Christ**
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Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer • 6:00 p.m.
Friday Worship • 7:30 p.m.

Phone: 282-9158




Pastor Jerry D. Bumpus

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Church And It's Army**
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Muncie, IN

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.

Church: 288-3264
Home: 260-745-5353
Ex. 4:22 Israel is my son even my first born



Rev. JR Carswell

Fig Tree Ministries
219 W. Main
Muncie, IN

Sunday Morning Worship • 10:00 a.m.
Monday • 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 281-1636
Home: 759-7872
pastor kaymorehouse@hotmail




Pastor Kay Morehouse

**The New Testament
Christian Ministries**
6207 W. Taylor Rd. at Hoffer

Sunday Bible Study • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.
Friday Prayer Service • 7:00 p.m.

Phone: 282-7666




Overseer Ardelia Johnson

**My Father's House
Apostolic Church**
1208 E. Centennial Ave.

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service • 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday Prayer • 7:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study • 7:00 p.m.


Phone: 287-9221 • Home: 282-3224



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920 E. 1st

Sunday School • 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship • 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study • 6:30 p.m.
Friday Praise and Worship • 6:30 p.m.

Phone: 286-0825
Home: 288-5205



Pastor Iry Hogan

Unitarian Universalist Church
4800 W. Bradford Dr. (off Morrison Rd.)

Sunday Services • 10:45 a.m.
Adult discussion • 9:30
Monthly Sunday young adult lunches

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Phone us at 765-288-9561
Look us up at <http://uuchurch.uwctl.org/>

**May God Bless
Our Troops and
keep them safe!**

continued from page 38

bow and every tongue shall confess? What could be wrong with the name above all other names?

Colossians 3:17 states that whatsoever is done in word or in deed is to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus. If there were anything wrong with the name of Jesus why would God in His Word declare that everything in word or deed is to be done in that name?

Matthew 1:21 says that the name of the son of God was called Jesus for He would save His people from their sins. Could anything be wrong with a

name so powerful that it will provide salvation to God's people?

Jesus said in Mark 16:17 that His followers would cast out devils in His name. What could be wrong with a name that has the power to make demons flee at its very mention?

In Acts chapter three. Peter and John healed a lame man saying. "Silver and gold have I done, but such as I have given me thee in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

What could be wrong with a name that had the power to make the lame rise up and begin

to walk and leap and praise God?

The early Church prayed in the name of Jesus cast out devils in the name of Jesus healed the sick in the name of Jesus preached in the name of Jesus worked miracles in the name of Jesus, and turned the world upside down by the power of the name of Jesus. How could anyone look down upon or find any fault with such a wonderful name?

Would you not agree that anyone who has been guilty of fighting the name of Jesus should now be willing to bow before that name and pledge their

lives to the one who bore it? Are you willing to bow before the name of Jesus and accept the power for that name? If so then simply read and obey this next Bible verse. This verse tells, you how to enjoy the many benefits of the name of Jesus. Acts 2:38 says, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Everyone in the New Testament Church that believed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ were all baptized in

that name, and filled with the Holy Ghost calling upon jesus-name. If the early Church could call on that name, be baptized in that name, be filled with the Holy Ghost in that name be set free from sin in that name and ride that name all the way into eternity why don't you do the same? Believe in the name of Jesus. Call on the name of Jesus. Be baptized in the name of Jesus. Receive the Holy Ghost in the name of Jesus. Live your life sharing the name of Jesus. And I'll meet you at the feet of Jesus.

AFRICAN BRIEFS

Mauritians vote to curb presidential terms, set age cap

(GIN)--With a turnout of 76 percent of registered voters, Mauritians resoundingly declared it was time for a change, starting with a two-term limit for president.

Voters in Sunday's poll gave near-unanimous support for an amendment that would limit future presidents to two 5-year terms, down from 6 years and with an age cap of 75. The country's constitutional council must approve the results. The next round of presidential elections is in March 2007.

The referendum fulfills a promise by military officers, led by Col. Ely Ould Mohammed Vall, who ousted the president of 20 years, Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, earlier this year.

"Imagine an entire generation that is born, grows up and sometimes ages under the same regime," said Vall during a tour of the country to promote the referendum last month. "It is that political system that almost led us on a dangerous path towards total destruction.

"It is that system that you will condemn by adopting these constitutional changes."

The reform makes Mauritania one of a few Arab nations to limit presidential terms and

sets it apart from sub-Saharan Africa, where a number of leaders have amended constitutional rules in recent years to keep themselves in power.

Sudan pays off Ugandan rebel forces

(GIN)--Doubts are being raised as to whether a \$20,000 payoff to the head of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to take his troops and go, did in fact buy peace or just time before a new atrocity.

Joseph Kony, charismatic head of the LRA, received the money last month from South Sudanese leader Riek Machar, a move criticized by several human rights groups. Machar claims the payoff worked.

More than 90 percent of Ugandan rebels have left their refuge in southern Sudan, Machar said this week, showing that the policy of paying the notorious outlaws to go has been a success.

The LRA came out in 1987 with the goal of overthrowing longtime Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Its tactics have been widely condemned. The rebels stand accused of inflicting brutal violence on the population in northern Uganda, including raping women and children, kidnaping, torture and murder. Kony and four of his top coman-

ders are wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

But reports from Ugandan army forces reveal that Kony is still carrying on the rebel war. "Eight LRA fighters were killed last week as they tried to raid camps in the north," said Uganda's army spokesman Maj. Felix Kulayigye. "Our position is clear: operations continue."

Meanwhile, Interpol issued its first warrants on behalf of the ICC for five LRA commanders for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including intentionally directing an attack against a civilian population.

But some local leaders say the ICC and Interpol moves are disrupting talks aimed at achieving peace. "As religious leaders, we are concerned about the announcement by Interpol. The ICC and Interpol should hold on and give room to negotiations and see how far this dialogue can go," said Monsignor Matthew Odongo, the vicar-general of the Roman Catholic diocese of the northern district of Gulu.

"Any move that adds to the suffering of the people will not be good. We think there is no contingency plan for the ICC or Interpol to arrest Kony and his commanders when (Uganda's) government, with an

army, has failed for the past 20 years."

Sudan rejects U.N. forces to project Darfur residents

(GIN)--Sudanese President Omar al Bashir is refusing to accept a U.N. contingent of peacekeepers, despite some anxious arm-twisting from his South African counterpart.

President Thabo Mbeki, on a recent visit to Khartoum, was greeted with a fiery rejection of the U.N. deployment by al Bashir. Currently some 7,000 African Union peacekeepers are in the devastated western region of Sudan. Reports say the greatly outnumbered, out-gunned and under-financed African troops have been unable to hold their positions.

They have largely been ineffective in trying to project black Africans in the Darfur region, who have been attacked, killed, terrorized and displaced by Arab militias that seem to enjoy the support of the authoritarian Sudan regime.

Sudan has one of the worst records of human rights violations in the world and has been accused of genocide in Darfur.

Al Bashir's African peers have made it clear that the number of peacekeepers has to be increased and that any amplification of the force will require U.N. financing and manpower.

But the Sudanese leader took aim at the U.N. "blue helmets," as the peacekeepers are called. He said they would be neo-colonialists and accused Jewish organizations of pushing for their deployment, noting that a partial peace agreement with one of the several rebel groups in the Darfur area has been reached.

"The U.N. Security Council decided on deployment of international forces in Darfur under Chapter 7 after we have reached a peace agreement that has ended a crisis the West has branded as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world," said Al Bashir.

"We know everything. We know their agenda. We have our own bug-ging and monitoring systems through which we ascertained that those forces are coming with a colonial agenda, they are coming not for keeping peace but to remain in Darfur as forces of occupation.

"We know that the U.N. has no money. Recently U.N. humanitarian envoy Jan Egeland said his organization could not find funds for financing humanitarian operations. How is it going to finance those forces of occupation?"

The South African leader was in Khartoum to get the latest information to report to the African Union summit in Banjul next week.

A F R I C A N B R I E F S

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South Africa heads the AU committee for the reconstruction of Sudan and is the current chair of the AU Peace and Security Council.

South African book fair attracts a record 20,000 visitors

(GIN)--Organizers of the highly successful Cape Town Book Fair are still congratulating themselves on the event that was expected to attract some 10,000 visitors but after the 4-day event closed last Tuesday. By then, some 20,000 people had come through its doors.

Apart from the many stalls, colorfully displaying their wares in the Cape Town International Convention Centre, there was a continual stream of readings, awards, panel discussions, lectures and colloquia.

The biggest book fair on the African continent hosted 418 exhibitors from South Africa, Africa and abroad, including representatives from Swaziland, Nigeria, Kenya, China, India, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, France and Germany.

The fair was a joint production of the Publishers' Association of South Africa and the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Among the topics sparking discussion were the lack of publishing in local languages, other than English and Afrikaans, the need to

create a broader "culture of reading" and the much-asked question, "Where are the young black writers?"

The fair's launch, with a gala dinner, was presided over by one of the grand old men of South African literature, Lewis Nkosi, who expressed his wonderment at the contrast between this gathering and the fact that, as a youth, he had been barred from libraries because he is black.

Global Information Network (GIN) distributes news and feature articles on Africa and the developing world to mainstream, alternative, ethnic and minority-owned outlets in the United States and Canada. Lisa Vives

Executive Director

Global Information Network 146 West 29th Street Suite 7E

New York, NY 10001
www.globalinfo.org
212-244-3123 (voice)
212-244-3522 (fax)

South Africa's De Klerk stable after operation for colon cancer.

F.W. de Klerk, the 70 years old last president of white-ruled South Africa, was in a stable condition after his condition worsened following an operation for colon cancer, a hospital spokeswoman has said. De Klerk, a heavy smok-

er and drinker, shared the Nobel Peace Prize with the revered statesman Nelson Mandela in 1993 for his efforts to end apartheid and establish a multi-racial democracy.

"His condition deteriorated on Wednesday morning because of respiratory problems. Due to this he was ventilated," said spokeswoman Melissa Rademan of the Panorama Medi-Clinic, a private hospital in the suburbs of Cape Town. "On Thursday it was decided to perform a second laparotomy (stomach incision). No abnormalities were detected but he is still being ventilated and he is in a stable condition in the intensive care unit," she said. A spokesman for the former president said he would be sedated for three days the weekend of June 9-11, 2006. De Klerk had an operation on a cancerous colon tumour first Saturday of June and Rademan said it had been removed. But she said media reports that he had undergone a course of chemotherapy treatment were not correct. "He is not well enough for that yet," she said.

De Klerk took over as president from hardline white nationalist P.W. Botha in 1989. Six months later, he stunned the world by freeing anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela after 27 years in prison. He then

engaged in negotiations that saw Mandela elected South Africa's first black president in April 1994.

De Klerk's efforts won him a share of the Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela in 1993, but also cost his National Party its place at the pinnacle of power. He served as a deputy president in Mandela's power-sharing government, but quit in 1996 and resigned as party leader a year later, saying he wanted to help the National Party break with the past. He left the renamed New National Party in 2004 after its voter support evaporated and the party said it would merge with the governing African National Congress. Since then, he has set up two foundations to promote peace, democracy and understanding. De Klerk lives with his present wife, Elita Giorgiades, on a wine farm about 60 kilometres from Cape Town. (USAfricaonline.com with CPD).

US to renew diplomatic ties with Libya.

The Bush administration on Monday May 15, 2006 decided to restore normal diplomatic relations with Libya for the first time in over a quarter century. The US is taking Mohammed Gadhafi's country off a US list of state sponsors of terrorism, State Department officials said. "This is not a deci-

sion that we arrived at without carefully monitoring and assessing Libya's behaviour," Assistant Secretary of State David Welch said. Welch said the United States will soon upgrade its diplomatic office in Tripoli to a full embassy. The move culminates a process that began three years ago when Tripoli surprised the world by agreeing to dismantle its nuclear weapons programme.

There have been no normal relations with Libya since 1980. The State Department for several years listed Libya among nations the US government considered as official sponsors of terrorism.

Libya was held responsible for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in 1988, which claimed 270 lives, most of them American. But Libya has made a decisive move away from terrorism in recent years, officials said. Removing Libya from the list of countries the United States considers to be state sponsors of terrorism means a 45-day public comment period will begin on Monday, after which Libya would be removed from the list. The establishment of normal relations may have come sooner were it not for allegations that Gadhafi's regime was behind an attempt on the life of Saudi's Arabia's King Abdullah when he was crown prince several years ago.

NAACP laments declining diversity among Hollywood's new TV shows

An analysis of the 2006 fall television season by the NAACP Hollywood Bureau indicates that while African American actors are in significant roles in drama series, there are no sitcoms on the four major broadcast networks starring African American actors scheduled for the upcoming season.

NAACP President Bruce S. Gordon, in letters to network executives, expressed concern that progress in diversifying the television industry appears to be slipping in some areas. Although employment numbers for actors, directors and writers on staff for the 2006 fall season will not be available until November/December, the

announced fall lineup gives cause for concern, Gordon said.

While there is some "good news" in the NAACP analysis, Gordon said, "I feel that we are losing important ground. The lack of African American leads in sitcoms is unconscionable. This is historically where many African American actors, directors, writers and show runners have honed their artistic skills and found meaningful employment."

Gordon said that the NAACP will continue its leadership role in monitoring the media and entertainment industry. He is scheduling network meetings to discuss the current situation.

According to the NAACP analysis, cancellation of The Bernie Mac Show by FOX means that for the first time in recent history, there is not a comedy with an African American lead character on the four major broadcast networks: FOX, CBS, NBC and ABC.

"When it comes to returning sitcoms and the announced new comedies, African Americans are missing in action," Vic Bulluck, executive director of the NAACP Hollywood Bureau, said.

On the dramatic front, bolstered by the success of series like ER, CSI, Law and Order, Grey's Anatomy and Lost, every network can point to shows on its schedule and

count diverse roles. When it comes to one-hour dramas, the emphasis is principally on multiethnic ensemble casts. The CBS hit series, The Unit, starring Dennis Haysbert, is the only one-hour drama starring an African American male lead on a major network in the fall line up.

In 1999, when the NAACP launched its current diversity initiative in Hollywood, there were seven African American show runners. The show runner's role is critical, because it is held by senior television producers who hire and supervise the show staff, including writers and technical crews.

In 2005 there were 13 African American show runners. It is anticipated that in 2006 there will be eight, due in large part to the merger of UPN and WB by CBS Corp. and Warner Brothers. UPN and WB became part of a new network, called the CW that starts this fall.

The analysis concludes that though it is unfair to put the burden of diversity on television on the new CW, at least there you can find a Sunday night block of African American comedies. Still, the detrimental impact of the CW's formation is indisputable. UPN had been the only network to actively program for an African American audience. Five of the eight African American comedies that aired on UPN did not make the CW fall line up. The harsh reality is that with each canceled show upwards of 200 people may lose their jobs.

Gordon said, "If these

writers, actors, directors and craftspeople were considered equally for other industry jobs and opportunities, then we would have no issue, but regrettably, this is not the way it works in Hollywood."

The 2006 Diversity Report by the Directors Guild of America offers a glimpse into the state of ethnic representation at the networks. After examining all episodes of last season's top 40 network dramas and sitcoms, the Guild found that 83 percent of the shows were directed by white men, 10 percent by white women, 5 percent by minority men and 2 percent by minority women.

The NAACP recognizes two groups, the Writers Guild of America (WGA) and the network executives as those who directly affect diversity. Due to the enormous power and influence that they wield and the top down pressure they can exert, they must be held accountable. The show runners are WGA members and the network executives employ the show runners and empower them to hire.

Gordon said: "We urge the networks along with the Writers Guild of America and all network show runners to look closely at those who are being hired on all scripted shows before the launch of the new fall season. We ask them to pay close attention to those working on their writing staffs as well as, the actors, directors, craftspeople and technicians." See the complete analysis at

www.naacp.org.

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Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Monthly Community Meetings

MUNCIE BLACK EXPO; 1306 N. Broadway	3rd Thursday, 6:00 P.M.	Dr. Maria Williams-Hawkins 282-1997
Muncie Community School Board; Anthony Administration Building	2nd & 4th Tuesday, 630 P.M.	Jennifer J. Abrell; 289-6389
Muncie City Council; City Hall Auditorium	1st Monday, 7:30 P.M.	Chuck Leonard; 741-9625
Muncie NAACP; Maring- Hunt Library 205 S. High St.	2nd Thursday, 5:15 P.M.	Dr. Jayne Beilke, President
Muncie Commission On The Social Status of Black Males; South Madison Community Center; 900 S. Madison St.	1st Tuesday, 5:00 P.M.	John Young-El; 747-9008
Widow's Son Lodge #22 Masonic Lodge, 1514 E. Willard Street	2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.	Eddie J. Chappell, Worshipful Master; 759-5290
Naomi Chapter Number 11 The Order of Eastern Star Masonic Lodge, 1514 E. Willard Street	1st and 3rd Monday, 7:00 P.M.	Joanne McCain Johnson, Worthy Matron; 286-2960
Coalition of 100 Women; Kennedy Branch of Public Library	3rd Saturday, 10:30 A.M.	Linda Branson, President; 282-0492
Millie P. Hoffman Federated Club Lynd House 2410 E. McGalliard	2nd & 4th Wednesday, 3:00 P.M.	Ruth Ann Blair, President; 289-2118
Lucille Lucas Williams Federated Club	2nd Thursday, Rotating Home Meetings	Lula Mann, President; 747-5125
Whitely Neighborhood Council; 1306 N. Broadway	1st Monday, 6:00 P.M.	Randall S. Sims, 212-1188
Unity in DiverCity Gethsemane Church United Methodist Church 1201 W. McGalliard Rd.	3rd Sat. 11:00 a.m.	Dr Pierre Atchade, 289 - 3955
Household of Ruth #4618 Industry Neighborhood Center; 1407 S. Wolfe Street	1st Friday, 4:00 P.M.	Loretta Miller, MNG; 288-6987